

Together we can!

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LET'S FACE IT, IN MANY WAYS IT'S HARD WORK BEING A WOMAN!

It's a job in itself just to get ready in the morning and make sure we look our best to tackle the corporate world. But in all honesty, we lavish in all the faffing about, don't we?! The reality is, being a woman is fun and exciting, when you look good, you feel good.

In my life, being a woman hasn't held many challenges. I was fortunate enough to grow up with parents that are firm advocates of people standing on their own two feet (regardless of gender).

I was lucky enough to know my own mind from a very early age and my family encouraged me to pursue the things I wanted from life.

I have the most wonderful brother, we were always treated equally by our parents in terms of what we were and weren't allowed to do and given the same opportunities. Not only did this make my brother and I best friends, it also meant that I never felt less empowered than any man because of this level playing field.

I entered the insurance industry when I was 20 years old. The landscape was a little different back then. I didn't see many women in management or client facing positions – women were just starting to enter this space in the industry and what a fantastic time this was to be a woman! All of my managers have been men and I am privileged enough that they have always encouraged my constant need to learn and my desire for increased responsibility.

This industry and the people in it have been good to me. Of course, I ended up in insurance by complete chance (I think we all do), but I'm so glad I did. There is so much more to insurance than people think, I learn new things every single day and I'm progressing in my career continuously. I think perhaps there is still a perception that the industry is a very male-dominated area, but it's not. This may have been the case a long time ago, but nowadays I see a lot of young and diverse women currently in and starting out in the industry. Women certainly are at the forefront of the game now and I am so glad to see that we are experiencing so much growth from these women who have so much to offer. Let's face it, as women we have different strengths to men... It's about working together and harnessing those different strengths to ultimately achieve the same goals.

It's never just been a job for me, it's been a career from day one. With hard work, dedication and the support I've had from my family and all those that I have been privileged to have as my colleagues over the years has played a huge role in my journey.

To all future career-women out there, keep climbing that corporate ladder!

CIB WOMEN'S HIGH TEA

CIB treated their female staff to a fabulous High Tea at the Ferguson restaurant in Sandton. Jon-Jon Smit, CIB's Marketing and Distribution Exec welcomed the ladies and gave a brief overview of the history and the significance of the day. He then introduced Tanya Kunze, neuroscience coach and highly sought after international keynote speaker. She encouraged women to choose the right people to walk the course of life with: "We become a sum total of the 5 people we constantly surround ourselves with." After the formalities, the fun was in full swing with luxurious high tea canapés, music and networking.

