



The Textile Institute 115th Annual General Meeting 27 June 2025

Professor Malgorzata Zimniewska CText FTI, Immediate Past World President of The Textile Institute



"Dear members,

I would like to welcome all of The Textile Institute Members to the Annual General Meeting.

We are living in turbulent times marked by numerous armed conflicts with global implications. Simultaneously, we must all address climate change to protect our planet for future generations.

The Textile Institute is addressing these challenges through its wide-ranging activities aimed at supporting the global textile community. The TI Strategy for 2024-2028 outlines our vision to be a leading international network for the textile, clothing, footwear, and associated industries. This strategy enables the implementation of professional practices, education, awards, and publication activities. Our five special interest groups are catalysts for change in sustainability, tailoring, textiles, technical textiles, and e-textiles.

The Institute is continuously developing its publishing portfolio to provide opportunities for researchers worldwide to publish their latest scientific achievements. The portfolio includes The Journal of The Textile Institute, Textile Progress, two book series (The Textile Institute Book Series and The Textile Institute Professional Publications), and The Textile Institute's

magazine *textiles*. Focusing on current textile problems provides significant opportunities for researchers to publish their study results in these journals and books.

In 2024, The Textile Institute held its annual Parliamentary Lunch in the Cholmondeley Room at the House of Lords in London. To keep the tradition in current year we will have new opportunity to take part in this unforgettable event on 21 November.

Furthermore, the 93rd World Conference of The Textile Institute, hosted by Aquitex, will be held in Porto, Portugal, from October 7-10, 2025. The theme is "Fiber to Future: Transforming Fashion and Textiles through Sustainability and Digitalisation." This global event provides an excellent platform to exchange knowledge and experience and strengthen the bonds among textile experts from around the world.

I had the pleasure of being able to represent The Textile Institute at the Jubilee 90 Years of The Gdynia Cotton Association and General Assembly of the Members of the Gdynia Cotton Association in Poland, 6-7 June 2025. The events gather several dozens of cotton international experts and I could share the ideas of The Textile Institute among them.

The Textile Institute promotes international cooperation in a friendly atmosphere, encouraging its members to develop their skills and qualifications through special TI tools and professional knowledge sharing. It has been a great honour for me to serve as the World President of this globally respected organisation. Now I will be passing my tasks to Mr Charles Wood who is due to be appointed as the new World President of The Textile Institute.

I wish you all a fruitful assembly, with thoughtful deliberations as you seek the best solutions for the future of The Textile Institute and the global textile sector.

May we all strive for a life of peace and a greener planet."

Mr Charles Wood CText FTI, World President of The Textile Institute



"Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to accept the honour of the post of World President of The Textile Institute.

I would firstly like to thank Professor Malgorzata Zimniewska for her tireless support of the TI over her tenure as World President. She has shone a beacon for sustainability and the use of natural fibres. We thank you Professor Zimniewska for all you have done for us. Also I would also like to pass thanks to all members of the council for your unwavering support during the past 12 months.

When people ask me what I do for a living I will say that I work for a 194 year old family business but often I will respond by saying that I work in one of the World's greatest industries – the Textiles industry.

From technical textiles used for aorta replacements or carbon fibre fabric used in the wings of aircraft to the beautiful upholstery fabrics that we see adorn our finest historical buildings and to the ever changing needs of the sports and fashion textiles we live and work in one of the world's greatest manufacturing industries.

I have been fortunate enough to travel to many parts of the world during my career, and I see the same love of textiles everywhere I go. It gets under your skin and is not easy to shake off.

During my tenure as World President I want to encourage all of you to stand back and celebrate the Textiles industry and all the good that it brings to our fast moving and chaotic world.

In a time where we are moving towards greater disunity, I believe it is important to connect and value our joint experience in Textiles. This common experience brings people together from across the world. So Unity is a key element of what I would like to promote by reaching out to the sections across the geographical divides and bring us all closer together as a family of textile enthusiasts.

The other focus I have seen during my travels across the world in China, Europe and the US is the substantial burden of investing in new equipment in order to produce new fabrics or gain some competitive advantage. But this has become increasingly difficult to get the return we need to reinvest.

It was ever thus but we have reached a point where sophisticated retailers driven by AI and consumer behaviour have come to dominate parts of our industry driving costs and quality down and down to a point where many parts of our industry has become heavily commoditised. The driver has been the substantial profits these retailers make and has prevented innovation and reinvestment in our industry. Clothing prices and home furnishings are traded at ever lower prices and disposed of more and more readily.

We need to step away from this pathway and hold a greater focus on quality and training of our staff and also true sustainability and circularity. These are not easy topics, but they will bring great rewards for those who succeed.

Some of the key brands that will succeed during the 2030s will not even exist today. A combination of new sales channels and open free trade can bring substantial success for many years to come.

If I talk about UK brands -companies like Burberry, John Smedley, Jaeger, Coats, Gymshark and Paul Smith come to mind. I accept these are probably all premium brands, but they have something in common – they all produce beautiful fabrics and items which are cherished and valued for many years. How many of the textile products we use today will be quickly forgotten?

The younger generations in the UK and across the world admire these brands for their quality and trade them on platforms like Vinted many times over. So make a quality product and it will keep being reused creating greater value through the supply chain. Make something cheap and you will be forgotten as quickly as the time you took to make it.

Consumers are thanks to the internet becoming better informed and it is the job of all of us at the TI to keep educating each other and the younger generations across all the countries we cover to love and cherish Textiles to create a brighter future for us all. So let us value our contributions to textiles and the importance of textiles in the fabric of all of our lives. Thank you for listening.”

Professor Jess Power CText FTI, Chair of The Textile Institute



“Dear Members,

It has been my second year of office in the capacity of Chair of The Textile Institute, and I take great pride in informing you that we have moved forward at pace with our strategic plan. We have continued to strengthen our global standing by serving new markets across the textile supply chain, we have delivered financial security, ending the year with surplus and meeting our reserve policy targets of just over GBP £60,000, and we have continued to support our global community through our charitable status.

Our vision remains to be the foremost international organisation for textile, clothing, and footwear professionals, advancing professional practice through networking, education, awards, and publications.

I was delighted to speak at the annual Textile Institute Parliamentary Lunch, where over 100 experts joined our host The Right Honourable Lord Haskel to network and share ideas. Fiona Johnson discussed innovation in functional and performance apparel, and Beatrice Russell shared her journey to establish a sustainable wearable solutions company with assistance from the Prince’s Trust. It was a truly memorable occasion, and much networking and opportunities were opened, including offers for new industry short courses, we had new Corporate and Individual Members join and it raised the profile of the TIWC and short course opportunities. Despite challenges and difficult operating conditions we are working smarter and capitalising on partnerships with our eleven Sections worldwide (which we hope to be extending this year); and we continue to work closely with our five Special Interest Groups, one of which is already well on their way to developing a new technical textile short course to be launched next year, this is in much demand and was born out of direct feedback from members.

We continue with the “Section’s showcase” which is firmly embedded into the Institutes Council meetings. This year we have been inspired by the Bangladesh Section, London and South-East

England Section and have extended the showcase to include Special Interest Groups, the first delivered by the Technical Textiles SIG Chair. We are an international organisation, and the Chairs have taken great pride in sharing activities, events, and local discussions framed in an international context and already we have seen direct impact in terms of partnerships, recruitment drives and increases in applications to professional qualifications. Recently there have been 20 successful applications for Professional Qualifications, and we will be inviting these and anyone who has registered a qualification since TIWC 2023 to be awarded at the next World Conference, this year in Portugal 7-10 October hosted by Corporate Member Aquitex.

As many of you already know 2025 marks the centenary of our Royal Charter and I hope everyone enjoyed reading our extended Annual Report to mark this occasion. The Royal Charter governs The Textile Institute’s provision of a global network for members, facilitating professional connections, knowledge sharing, and collaboration opportunities. As part of its continued commitment to excellence, the Institute remains steadfast in its alignment with the principles outlined in its Royal Charter, focusing on the advancement of textile science, art, education, and industry practices.

We look forward to welcoming you to our World Conference in Porto, Portugal, to continue our celebrations with the theme of “Fibre to Future - Transforming Fashion and Textiles through Sustainability and Digitalisation.” Collaborations between universities, charities, and commerce, locally and globally, are essential to drive innovation forward. Some of the discussions will be the start of new opportunities, networks, and partnerships that will make a significant difference to some of the key global sustainability challenges we currently face. We are building an Institute for the future, ready to tackle these challenges head-on.

This Charter Year is a timely moment to reflect on the values of The Textile Institute and to encourage participation in one of its most important traditions: the Medals and Awards programme. These awards are a powerful way to recognise excellence, leadership, and innovation

across the global textile, clothing, footwear and associated industries. They celebrate the individuals and organisations who are helping to shape the future of the sector, and we are proud to invite nominations and applications from across our international community.

There are two broad categories of awards:

- Industry awards, which honour significant contributions to the sector—from ground-breaking research and commercial innovation to advancements in design, technology, and sustainable practices. Of particular note is our increasing focus on sustainability: recognising those who are leading the change in responsible manufacturing, circular systems, and environmentally conscious materials and processes.
- And member awards, which recognise outstanding service to the Institute and the wider profession. These awards celebrate those who contribute through education, voluntary leadership, and long-standing commitment to professional excellence.

As part of our commitment to nurturing the next generation of textile professionals, The Textile Institute is proud to present the Postgraduate Award, previously known as the Young Persons'

Award. This award recognises outstanding achievement by individuals in the early stages of their career or academic journey, particularly those who have completed postgraduate study in a textile-related discipline. It celebrates emerging talent, research excellence, and forward-thinking contributions that show clear potential to influence the future of the industry.

The Postgraduate Award is open to applicants worldwide at universities that have post graduate courses accredited by the Institute or Corporate Member institutions and aims to highlight the innovation, dedication, and creativity of new professionals who are already making their mark in areas such as sustainable development, advanced materials, textile design, and industrial application. We encourage universities, research institutions, industry mentors, and members to nominate exceptional postgraduate candidates. This is a valuable opportunity to gain international recognition, connect with leading figures in the field, and inspire others through your work.

We strongly encourage all members to consider nominating a peer, colleague, or organisation whose work deserves recognition or to apply directly if you believe your own contributions align with the aims of the awards. This is an opportunity not only to celebrate achievement, but to inspire others and highlight the extraordinary impact of textile professionals around the world.

In this Charter Year especially, let us honour those who are helping to move our industry and our Institute forward. For full details on the categories and how to submit, please visit the Medals and Awards section on our website.

Other recent news is the 2024 impact factor for Journal of the Textile Institute: remains at 1.5 (no change from last year's impact factor), but we should note that we have published more articles. So in real terms this represents a slight growth. I am also thrilled to announce that the 2024 impact factor for Textile Progress is 3.1 which is a good increase on last year's impact factor of 2.1. The 2024 5-year impact factor is also very strong, at 5.3.

Furthermore, we were delighted that the book, Sustainable Innovations in the Textile Industry, has been honoured with a Category winner award in the Engineering and Technology category 2025 PROSE Awards. This is fabulous news, as these are the most significant award available for academic & professional Science & Technology books). Congratulations to the contributors and editors Roshan Paul and Thomas Gries. It is wonderful recognition for The Textile Institute.

We continue to make significant changes to streamline our business operations working closely with the CEO and TIIHQ staff and Chairs of our sub-committees who do a marvellous job across, events, membership publication and professional qualifications. We are delighted to announce that we are continuing to extend our TIIHQ family, last year we recruited extra administrative support, this year we are recruiting an office manager.

It has been a particularly challenging year with our CEO being incapacitated for a few months at the start of 2025. However, everyone has done a sterling job in pulling together across our organisation to not only keep business as usual operations afloat but extend activities which has enabled us to transform our cashflow through front loading. I want to particularly thank the chairs of committees, section chairs and special interest group Chairs, but also our dedicated

HO, especially Prof Pammi Sinha and Dr Jane Wood. Their support this year has been second to none.

On a final note, I would like to thank our staff for their contribution throughout the year. There is much to be proud of as we embark on our journey into 2026, Thank you for your continued support and dedication to The Textile Institute. In a world of much uncertainty, we remain committed to weaving the threads of humanity together to make a sustainable impact within the global fashion, textiles and associated industries.”