CBI BECOMES 150TH GLOBAL ORGANISATION TO JOIN DISABILITY INCLUSION CAMPAIGN AS 90 DAY COUNTDOWN TO DAVOS BEGINS

- The Confederation of British Industry – which speaks for 190,000 businesses – has joined disability inclusion initiative The Valuable 500
- The Valuable 500 is seeking 500 global CEOs to commit to action on improving inclusivity of disabled people in business
- A number of Indian businesses have also signed up, taking the total number of global businesses to sign up to 150 – a further 150 are in the process of signing up, and the campaign is calling on 200 others to become leaders for change
- The Indian market has shown a strong dedication to disability inclusion, with seventeen of their largest businesses signing up to The Valuable 500

LONDON, WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER: The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has today announced it is the latest organisation to sign up to disability inclusion campaign, The Valuable 500 – the movement to encourage global business leaders to recognise the value of the world’s 1.3 billion disabled people.

CBI is amongst 50 new global businesses to have committed to the campaign since last month when 100 sign-ups were announced, including seventeen Indian businesses. This takes the total number of countries represented to date to 20.

Launched at the World Economic Forum’s Annual Summit this year, The Valuable 500 seeks 500 global businesses to place disability inclusion on their board agenda as the first step to full inclusion for disabled people in business.

The news today comes as the 90 day countdown to the next Annual Summit in Davos begins, marking one year since the launch of The Valuable 500. 150 companies have now signed up from 20 countries, including Australia, Bahrain, Denmark, Egypt, India, USA and Switzerland. At least another 150 are due to become members in the coming months.

The campaign will return to the main stage at Davos next year – where founder Caroline Casey will unveil a report looking at the progress of the initiative and those global businesses signed up to becoming inclusive of disabled people, and to host a press conference.

Caroline Casey, founder of The Valuable 500 commented:

“Today is a huge moment for the disabled community – to have 150 global CEOs signed up to this initiative, and from 20 countries is astounding. We are delighted to welcome the Confederation of British Industry and celebrate its bravery in stepping forward to offer a voice for a community which is currently not being heard – we urge other organisations whom have a platform to speak to the business community to do the same, and commit to action on offering inclusion for all by signing up to The Valuable 500.

“Yet still more can be done. Currently, only 4% of global businesses frequently discuss disability on the board agenda – a figure which is really quite shocking, and simply not good enough. Business must wake up to the $8 trillion market opportunity of disabled people and their family and friends
We welcome the 17 companies from India and South East Asia to The Valuable 500, and applaud them for showing true leadership on this issue, on a global level.”

The news comes one day before Caroline Casey takes to the stage of global youth leadership Summit, One Young World, which is a strategic partner of The Valuable 500, where she will discuss the need for disability inclusion alongside other disability activists Molly Burke, Samantha Renke, Adam Pearson and Edward Ndopu.

The seventeen Indian companies to join include: Central Group, Mahindra, Tata Steel, ANZ Bank, Lalit Hospitality Group, Allegis group, Laguna Clothing, Vindhya E-Infomedia, Linde Group, Dr. Reddy's, Refinitiv (formerly Thomson Reuters), Mphasis, DTSS, IBM, Sansera, Wipro, Brookfield and come ahead of Caroline Casey’s next appearance at Enable India on November 29th in Delhi.

EnAble India is a charitable organisation working for economic independence with dignity for persons with disability. The organisation works with 725 + organizations for employment of persons with all types of disability like Visual Impairment, hearing impairment, physical disability, intellectual disability, severe disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and many more. The organization has impacted the lives of 250,000+ person with disability and their families.

Dame Carolyn Fairbairn DBE, CBI Director-General, said:

“The CBI is immensely proud to join the Valuable 500. Companies that place inclusion at the heart of what they do empower their people to perform.

“The evidence is clear - embracing a wide range of talent boosts a businesses’ bottom line. I’m thrilled many CBI members have committed to this initiative and prioritised disability inclusion on their board agendas. Yet there’s so much more companies can and must do now to lead from the front.

“Firms must pick up the pace of progress - supporting more people with disabilities into work and rise through the ranks of our companies.”

Global businesses signed up to The Valuable 500 include Sainsbury’s, Unilever, Microsoft, Bank of England, KPMG, EY, O2 (Telefonica UK) and Virgin Media.

These companies and leaders are taking a number of steps to support disability inclusion and equality throughout their businesses – reflecting a groundswell of corporate appetite to drive action on disability inclusion in business.

The campaign seeks to tackle the trend for businesses to claim they are diverse, but exclude disability from their definition of diversity, following research by EY commissioned by #valuable found disability is still woefully absent from the majority of board level discussions globally - with the majority (56%) of global senior executives rarely or never discussing disability on their leadership agendas.

Today, over one billion people across the world live with some form of disability - 15% of the global population, or 1 in 7 people - but their value is routinely ignored by business, equivalent to disregarding a potential market the size of US, Brazil, Indonesia and Pakistan combined.

Along with their friends, families and communities, the one billion disabled people worldwide also hold a disposable annual income of $8 trillion a year, equating to an opportunity that business
cannot afford to ignore. Of those one billion, 80% of disabilities are acquired later life, and our ageing global population means the prevalence of disability is on the rise.

#valuable is a catalyst for an inclusion revolution that exists to position disability equally on the global business leadership agenda. It is spearheaded by award-winning activist, social entrepreneur and Binc founder Caroline Casey, who is registered blind.

To apply to be a Valuable 500 business, please visit thevaluable500.com.

#valuable – it’s everyone’s business.

- Ends -

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Applying for Membership of The Valuable 500

To apply to be a Valuable 500 business, please visit thevaluable500.com.

Membership of The Valuable 500 includes:

- Unlimited access to our executive disability performance resource hub
- Membership to a community of like-minded business peer leaders, committed to raising their game on disability
- The platform and opportunity to raise your profile as an early adopter helping to shape this vital emerging economic and societal agenda.

By becoming a member of The Valuable 500, you agree to:

- COMMIT: Table disability on your board agenda from 2019
- ACT: Make ONE firm commitment to action in 2019
- AMPLIFY: Share your commitment to The Valuable 500 internally and externally

About CBI

Across the UK, the CBI speaks on behalf of 190,000 businesses of all sizes and sectors. The CBI’s corporate members together employ nearly 7 million people, about one third of private sector employees. With offices in the UK as well as representation in Brussels, Washington, Beijing and Delhi, the CBI communicates the British business voice around the world.

About #valuable
Launched by Binc, #valuable is a campaign working to ensure businesses globally recognise the value of the one billion people around the world living with a disability. We believe that building a global society that recognises the value of the 1 billion people living with a disability starts with business. We’re on a mission to make sure businesses across the world recognise the value of the one billion people living with a disability.

Binc was founded by social entrepreneur and activist Caroline Casey in 2015, with a mission to ignite a historic global movement for a new age of business inclusion. Binc is capitalising on Caroline Casey’s 18-year track record of success engaging over 450 organisations and working with 500,000 business leaders. Binc fundamentally believes that inclusive business creates inclusive societies and is initiating a new approach to business that genuinely includes the 1 billion people living in the world with a disability. Binc is the founding team behind valuable, an ambitious global campaign to put inclusivity on top of the business agenda around the world in 2019. Binc is using a tried and tested formula that has worked in the past for gender, race and LGBT to leverage the exponential rise of The Diversity and Inclusion Agenda.

Enable India
Enable India’s vision is Celebration of Human Spirit.
Enable India is a charitable non-profit organisation registered as a public charitable trust in Karnataka in the year 1999. The focus of the organisation is on working for economic independence with dignity for persons with disability. Enable India is primarily an organisation working for livelihoods for persons with disability by imparting knowledge, training and skill development for persons with disability. The organisation also works with 725+ organizations for employment of persons with all types of disability like Visual Impairment, hearing impairment, physical disability, intellectual disability, severe disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and many more. The organization has impacted the lives of 250,000+ person with disability and their families.
Our vision is a world where persons with disability are tax payers, active citizens and nation builders. We also believe that the nation and the world will benefit from seeing persons with disability as change agents and serve as a constant reminder for the need for inclusion of everybody. This will influence society to learn from disability to handle limits of any kind with acceptance and grace and where people reach their full potential by finding solutions and learn to value each other through constant inclusion.

Definition of disability:
#valuable uses the definition provided by the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with disabilities, which defines a person living with a disability as ‘those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.’

2 WHO
4 Return on Disability, 2016

Disability and the Sustainable Development Goals
The need to advance disability inclusion around the globe is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Disability or ‘persons with disabilities’ are specifically referenced 11 times in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a further six references to ‘persons in vulnerable situations’. Principally with reference to: promoting inclusive economic growth that allows disabled people to fully access the job market and guaranteeing equal and accessible education through the creation of inclusive environments.