

Julie Siddiqi MBE is a mentor, consultant and gender equality campaigner with a focus on interfaith relations and applying that to social action work, together. She has a background in community grass roots work spanning 25 years and founded a local charity for Muslim women's needs which she led for 10 years, gaining an acute knowledge of the personal challenges faced by women. She is Co-founder of **The Big Iftar**, which, during Ramadan, has seen hundreds of grassroots community events take place around the UK. These have included the first ever Iftar (breaking of the fast) reception at Lambeth Palace hosted by Archbishop Justin Welby in 2014, at the Ministry of Defence Building in London, at Speakers' House, the House of Commons and in cathedrals, synagogues, churches, town squares and schools all over the UK.

Julie was the Executive Director of the **Islamic Society of Britain** from 2010-2014 and led on several high profile campaigns during this period. She represented the UK's Islamic charities at the Enough Food IF rally in Hyde Park speaking to an audience of 40k. She spearheaded a national community based campaign against sexual grooming and child exploitation and was pivotal in peace initiatives following the murder of Lee Rigby in Woolwich. She has spoken on many news programmes including BBC Radio 4 and Newsnight, at the Christian festival, Greenbelt and the Jewish festival, Limmud, and at receptions hosted by the British Armed Forces. Julie was an advisor for the creation of the Armed Forces Muslim Forum.

Julie has been invited to speak at international conferences including Princeton University in the US, in Konya, Turkey and in Abu Dhabi. She is a Fellow in the Faith and Civil Society Unit at **Goldsmiths University** and a Trustee for **Muju**, a Jewish/Muslim theatre company. Julie was previously a member of the Government's National Muslim Women's Advisory Group and a mentor for the Prince of Wales Charity, **Mosaic**. She was previously on the Government's national Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group as an independent member. She is a Governor at two schools, **Eden Girls School Slough and Slough and Eton CofE Business and Enterprise College** and is a Patron of **The Feast**, an organisation which brings together young people from diverse faith backgrounds around the country to meet, eat and use constructive dialogue for positive change.

Julie ran a successful leadership programme for teenage girls in January 2019 in North Kensington for those directly and indirectly affected by the Grenfell fire tragedy. She was previously listed in the Times Newspaper's 100 Most Influential Muslim Women in the UK. She has been a contributor to Pause for Thought with Vanessa Feltz on Radio 2 and is a regular voice on BBC Radio 4's **Thought For The Day**. Julie has been a judge for the BBC local radio Frank Gillard Awards.

She has participated in two pieces of work with the New Muslims Project in partnership with the University of Cambridge – Contextualising Islam in Britain and Narratives of Conversion and is an alumni and now faculty member for the **Senior Faith Leaders Programme** by Faith In Leadership and is an alumni of Women in Leadership, from Windsor Leadership. Julie is Founder and Director of **Sadaqa Day**, a one-day Muslim-led national focus on social action, which was launched in March 2015 and she is Co-founder of **Nisa-Nashim** the Jewish and Muslim Women's Network, the largest network of its kind in Europe. Julie has recently established **'Together We Thrive'**, a network and online platform to train and inspire Muslim women to fully participate in society at every level, to challenge patriarchal attitudes in all communities and to ensure Muslim women are better represented in print and TV media. She is Co-founder of **'Open My Mosque'**, a campaign to highlight and speak out about inequalities in UK mosques and to find ways to address these needs through policy change and innovative storytelling. Julie is as a Steering Committee member for the Together Coalition chaired by Archbishop Justin Welby (together.org.uk). Julie has recently been appointed as Campaign and Network Manager for Survivors Against Terror, a UK based support and advocacy charity working with families and survivors of terror attacks.

Julie chose Islam as her way of life in March 1995 and is happily married with four children. She was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020 for Services to Promoting Interfaith Understanding.

