

Sheffield Race Equality Commission: Appointed Commissioners



Nathan Geering

I am a theatre maker and an accessibility Innovator. My passion is to bridge the gap between disabled and non-disabled artists and audiences. I was the Artistic Director of the 2017 Special Olympics Opening Ceremony. I also run 2 companies:

Rationale Method - an audio description and technological innovation company which focuses on enhancing accessibility in artistic and creative ways.

Rationale Arts - a registered charity with the mission to make art accessible for all.



Yuen Fong Ling

I am an artist and Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, specialising in social art practice, post-colonial art and queer art theory, and founder member of the Human Memorial Research Collective. Currently, I am also part of the "Visual Arts Panel" for "Making Our Way" a strategic plan for the arts led by Sheffield Culture Consortium, and the "Artist Co-design Working Group" for the re-visioning of the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Art (CFCCA) in Manchester.



Councillor Zahira Naz

I have worked for the voluntary sector in Sheffield for 17 years. I have experience in community development, domestic abuse and community cohesion. I recently founded Sisters4kashmir a group that encourages women to actively campaign on issues that effect human rights abuses in Kashmir.

I have organised charity and solidarity visits to France, especially Dunkirk, on a regular basis. Recently I helped establish the Yorkshire Refugees Foodbank to support Asylum Seekers and Refugees.



Sonia Gayle

I am an experienced non-executive director, committee chair and executive director - specialising in governance, compliance and risk management. I am a board member of Breast Cancer Now UK and Steel City Schools Partnership, and a presenter for Women on Boards.

I was a financial services director (HSBC, Barclays) and an ex-UK regulator. In my spare time I volunteer for the British Red Cross and I am a member of the Sheffield NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust.



Councillor Dawn Dale

I have worked in the voluntary sector in Sheffield for 18 years. I have experience in early years, youth, and family support work. I have developed and led projects in response to communities' needs including older peoples support services, adult education, and community health and wellbeing. I am currently the lead member on the Making Sheffield Fairer campaign group. I constantly strive to reduce inequality by engaging and representing those who are underrepresented.



Abdullah Okud

Abdullah is a young activist and engineering student, organiser and founding member of the Sheffield's Black Lives Matter Group. He founded Sheffield Hallam's first student & Staff of Colour race network, co-chairing the forum in 2018 to 2020. He was the first Muslim and African (UK) president at Sheffield Hallam Students Union (SU). Some of Abdullah's focus during his tenure included campaigns around issues of race equality; the degree attainment gap, student's employability and poverty.



Malcolm Cumberbatch

I started work as a civil servant and later as a manager in the Local Authority. Most of my work has been in academia. I always had time to address many manifested and latent social problems. I am a mediator in disputes, writer, publisher, mentor, activist, community enabler and keen observer in matters of race and ethnicity. I am currently a visiting lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University.

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Nancy Fielder

I am the Editor of The Star and Sheffield Telegraph as well as several other newspapers and websites in the region. I am passionate about using the strength of the local press to fight for the areas and people they represent.

I am a mother of three, recently completed a PhD focusing on the impact of mobiles on local news and regularly take part in newspaper reviews on Sky News and the BBC.



Winston Campbell

I was born and educated in Sheffield and lived in Burngreave. I attended Pye Bank Infant & Junior and Herries Comprehensive school.

I spent 10 years as a professional footballer and 15 years as a social care practitioner and manager working with young people in care homes, in the community, on remand, and in secure accommodation.



Dr Sharon Curtis

I have been deeply-rooted in educational development particularly the early years for over 25 years and have been a member of several boards including National Early Years Equality, Sheffield Children's Information Services, NASEN (National Association of Special Educational Needs) and Consortium for Children and Families.

I have experiences that incorporate health, education and couple counselling at Relate Sheffield. I co-authored in a UK publication on 'Race, Education and Leadership' published by Bloomsbury 2019.



Shruti Bhargava

Shruti Bhargava is an independent consultant and facilitator with particular interests in tackling the challenges that people think are impossible.

She is the Chair of Unity Homes & Enterprise, a social purpose driven Leeds based BME Housing Association. She was the leader of Sheffield City Council's 2003 Best Value Review of Services to BME People. She is known for speaking out against systemic and structural racism and has been a Sheffield citizen for 30 years.

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Gulnaz Hussain

I am the Chief Executive of Firvale Community Hub. I was born and educated in Sheffield. I have worked in the voluntary sector for over 20 years.

I am an award-winning Community Activist dedicating many years and commitment to improving social equalities and inclusion for communities who have experienced disenfranchisement in Sheffield.



Jonathan Yahya Williams

I have been a frontline practitioner for 20 years working across sectors within communities, schools and colleges. Each role focused on supporting young people between the ages of 13-19 who were identified as being at risk.

I have a BA Hons degree in Social and Political Studies from University of Sheffield where I am currently doing a Doctorate in Education.



Gul Nawaz Hussain QC

Born, raised and educated in Sheffield. I am a criminal defence barrister specialising in high profile and complex crime. The first Sheffield barrister to be appointed Queen's Counsel in over 15 years and South Yorkshire's first BAME QC. Joint head of the city's Bank House Chambers and also a Broadcaster on BBC Radio Sheffield.



Dr Martin Wilkie

Consultant Kidney Specialist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust working in home dialysis for 25 years.

I am a strategic lead for the Yorkshire and Humber National Institute of Health Research Clinical Research Network and am chairing a collaborative project to increase opportunities for participation in COVID research studies among people from Black and Asian Minority Ethnic Communities.

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Shahida Siddique

Shahida has worked across all sectors in the Sheffield City Region. She is the CEO of Faithstar LLP, a social enterprise in the city of Sheffield.

As the strategic lead for BAME and faith communities in responding to the pandemic within the city, she has been able to make a difference and ensure peoples safety. Her passion is equity, community and being an empowering voice for the voiceless.



Sheila Wright

Sheila is a Non-Executive Director of Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and an Independent Member of the Parole Board for England and Wales.

Sheila graduated with a BA (Hons) in applied Social Studies and a Certificate Qualification in Social Work (CQSW). She also acquired a Certificate in Practice Teaching and an MA in Policy Studies. She has worked locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to promote Criminal Justice, Health, Equality Diversity and Inclusion.



Councillor Kaltum Rivers

Kaltum Osman Rivers has lived and worked in Sheffield since 2005. In 2018 she was elected as the first African female councillor in South Yorkshire. She has been an activist most of her working life and has led research in health inequality, housing, education and social care.

She graduated with a BA in Social Anthropology and MA in Education and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Sheffield.



Olivier Tsemo

I am the Chief Executive Officer for the Sheffield and District African Caribbean Community Association also known as SADACCA and also the Co-Chair of the Sheffield BAMER Covid-19 Action Group. Prior to this I worked as a mathematics consultant for groups of academies in South Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

I am passionate about supporting leadership in communities and remain committed to the belief that no one should be discriminated against.

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Ruth McDonald

I have worked for 14 years as a social worker and now work for the child exploitation team which has seen an increase in BAME male referrals. I have experienced racism, which has helped me to develop a strong level of determination and resilience.

I am passionate about equality, inclusion and empowering others, to make positive change making Sheffield a better place.



Sahra Ahmed

Sahra currently holds many roles including lead Youth Worker for Broomhall Girls Youth Group, Support Worker for Citizen Advice Sheffield and Youth Development Worker for Ellesmere Youth Project. She graduated from The University of Derby.

Sahra's passion is to advocate for young people of colour and ensure their voices are heard. In her spare time, Sahra dedicates her time to her family and is into sewing.



Councillor Mohammed Mahroof

I am the Lib Dem Councillor for Crookes and Crosspool and the Shadow Cabinet Member for Education & Skills. I am a Consultant Chartered Surveyor working in private practice. I was formerly the Head of Property at Sheffield City Council. I have been practising for 30 years in Sheffield covering all aspects of land and property related matters.

I am also Trustee of Sheffield Hospitals Charity, Non-Executive Director at a Housing Association and a governor of a secondary school.

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Rhonda Allen

I was born in Trinidad and Tobago and I have been living in Sheffield for over 12 years. I am a mother of 3 adult children. I enjoy writing poetry, cooking, watching sports, travelling every year, reading books about self awareness and spirituality, being involved in projects to improve the lives of vulnerable young people in our community and engaging in community events such as carnival workshops, judging and wearing costumes.



Daljit Kaur

Daljit is the Chair of Ashiana an organisation that supports women and children from all over the country fleeing domestic and sexual abuse within a range of multiple perpetrator systems such as Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Human Trafficking, Gang Violence and 'Honour'-based Violence and grooming

She is also the founder member along with Professor Ted Cattle of the Institute of Community Cohesion which developed an international profile for its applied research and advocacy work.

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