



Salford CVS
making a difference in Salford

Salford VCSE Conference 2021 Belonging: Exploring Identity and Place

Speaker Biographies

Alison Page - Chief Executive, Salford CVS



Alison is proud to have been the Chief Executive of Salford CVS since April 2013 and is passionate about Salford and working in partnership with the city's voluntary organisations, community groups, charities, social enterprises and other strategic partners in order to benefit local people and this place.

Alison is also the Chair of the Salford Social Value Alliance and one of the organisers of Salford Social Enterprise City.

Alison is a Director of 10GM, a partnership of Greater Manchester's locality infrastructure organisations and a founder member of the GM VCSE Leadership Group, where she co-chairs the VCSE Commissioning sub-group. She is also the Chair of Voluntary Sector North-West.

She's currently heavily involved in the changes around health and social care in Greater Manchester, including sitting on the GM Transition Board, the EDI and Population Health workstreams, and is helping develop an Alternative Provider Federation for the social sector. In Salford she is a member of the local ICS Transition Board and its workstreams.

Alison is also involved in work around tackling poverty, reducing inequalities, promoting equity and creating an inclusive economy in Salford and across Greater Manchester.

When she's not working (which is rare!) she enjoys getting as near to the sea as possible, watching football, talking politics and practical volunteering such as gardening, growing, mentoring and campaigning!

Jermain Jackman - Steering Group member, Baobab Foundation



Jermain Jackman, born and raised in Hackney, combines his musical talent with pursuing his role as a political activist. He was crowned winner of BBC's The Voice UK in 2014, tagged as being the 'Singing Politician' by Sir Tom Jones.

As the co-chair of Hackney Young Futures Commission, former advisor for the National Citizens Service, and most recently, a part of the Baobab Foundation, Jermain is determined to use his voice as a tool for social change. He enacts change by ensuring that the most marginalised have a voice. As such, Jermain is determined to raise awareness of those feeling disenfranchised and without opportunities, as the first step towards finding and delivering solutions that address the complex issues they face.

As someone who was not afforded everything he wanted, Jermain recognises how much his family and community inspired him, and that it really does take a village to raise a child.

*"I have always wanted to change the world...
No dream is too big and no role is too far".*





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Kirit Patel - Development Worker, Voluntary Sector North West



Kirit has over 25 years' third sector experience as a manager, trainer and trustee. He has worked on a range of health, education, anti-poverty and race equality initiatives with local community groups, regional and international organisations including Southern Voices, BHA and Oxfam.

Kirit is a trustee of Breakthrough UK (a social enterprise supporting disabled people into work), Chair of Commonword (enabling writers to be more successful) and Cancer-Survive UK (a support organisation for ethnic minority communities affected by cancer).

He currently works for Voluntary Sector North West as a Development Worker on the Answer Cancer Greater Manchester Screening Engagement Programme.

Kirit has recently completed an MA in Creative Education at the University of Salford.

Kamran Mallick - Chief Executive, Disability Rights UK



Kamran Mallick joined Disability Rights UK as its Chief Executive in July 2017. He is the former Chief Executive of Action on Disability, the Hammersmith-based disability organisation, where he worked for 13 years. Kamran has also worked for the spinal injury charity Aspire as well as running his own training and consultancy business.

He serves on the boards of the Lyric Hammersmith, Wheels for Wellbeing and Lloyds Bank Foundation. He is a former chair of Candoco dance company and board member of Inclusion London. He is also a member of Gatwick Airport Passenger Experience Group and a former member of Transport for London's Independent Disability Advisory Group.

Kamran was included in the Shaw Trust's Powerlist 100 most influential disabled people in 2018 and was in the top 10 in 2020.





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Maryam Taher - Coordinator, City of Sanctuary



Maryam is a refugee and resident of Salford. She volunteered with Salford Healthy Communities from a young age and won a CVS Heart of Salford Award in 2015.

She now works with City of Sanctuary - a charity that holds the vision that the UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all, especially for people seeking protection in the UK. They support a network of groups and streams across the UK. Maryam is responsible for the Universities and North-West coordination.

Having accessed university as an asylum-seeker, she realises the challenges of accessing Higher Education for this group of students.

She is a member of Student Action for Refugees (STAR) group for Equal Access to Higher Education.

She graduated from the University of York through an Equal Access scholarship and is now supporting universities engaging with this movement.

Dawn Redshaw - Chief Executive, Salford Women's Aid

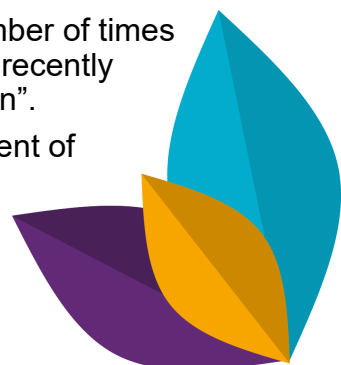


Dawn was born in Lower Broughton in Salford and has lived within the city for 56 years. Although she trained to be a civil engineer, Dawn's passion for supporting women and children living in domestic abuse relationships led her to spend the last 35 years working for Salford Women's Aid.

During this time Dawn has tirelessly campaigned for the rights of women and children. She was involved in lobbying the government to get Clare's Law, which is the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, put into policy. It's named after Clare Wood, a Salford resident who was murdered in 2009 by her ex-boyfriend, who had a history of violence against women.

Dawn has also appeared on television a number of times speaking about Domestic Abuse - and more recently appeared on the TV show "Love Your Garden".

She has also been involved in the development of various publications around domestic abuse; alongside "Communities in Crisis" - focusing on the demise of working class communities throughout the housing crisis of the 1980s.





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Leslie Holmes - Projects Manager, Salford Lads and Girls Club



Leslie Holmes has lived in Salford since 1991.

He joined Ordsall Community Arts in 1992, creating arts projects across the city. An Arts Council commission in 2002 led to his first visit to Salford Lads Club and since then he has never left!

Messages from visitors refer to Leslie as artist-in-residence, curator and even caretaker, but his role as Projects Manager covers everything from building manager, visitor guide and fundraiser.

His original aim was to save the building and it is now listed as the last original lads club building still in use. In the continually changing inner city landscape of Salford, a club founded in 1903 still attracts 170 young people each week. The team of remarkable volunteers continue to pass on values and traditions.

The club's motto is "To Brighten Young Lives and Make Good Citizens".

Gulwali Passarlay - Speaker, Activist and Afghan Nomad



Author of best-selling book "The Lightless Sky" award-winning Activist and Campaigner, Co-Funder of My Bright Kite and member of Afghan Refugee Expert Network in Europe (ARENE).

Gulwali is a dedicated advocate, humanitarian and spokesperson for refugees and asylum-seekers across the UK and Europe.

Since arriving in the UK in 2007 after being forced to leave Afghanistan as a 12 year old boy, Gulwali has achieved beyond all odds to become a well-respected and sought after public speaker, influencer and political campaigner for refugee's rights, social justice and education. The experience of his journey to the UK shaped his future and inspired an insatiable determination and commitment to raise awareness and make a difference for other refugees.

Gulwali graduated with a Politics degree from the University of Manchester in 2016 and he read his MPA at Coventry University in 2018.





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Jonny Wineberg - Director of Operations, We Stand Together



Jonny is a former Deputy Principal Youth Officer for Manchester City Council, Lecturer in Youth Work & Management and Chair of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region.

Jonny is currently also a trustee of Jewish Action for Mental Health and a trustee with JSENSE.

He professionally works as a Consultant for non-profit organisations and is Director of Operations for the We Stand Together charity, celebrating diversity, challenging hatred and building a safer and stronger UK.

Facilitator Biographies

Dr Katya Pursall - Strategic Lead, 10GM



Kat has been working in the VCSE sector for over a decade.

She is currently a Strategic Lead with 10GM – a joint venture to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Greater Manchester. Kat's role is to provide leadership and senior representation in Greater Manchester structures and to develop relationships and strong partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders across public, private and the voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector, including 10GM's partner teams.

When she's not working, Kat can be found acting as a mediator between her dog, older cat and kitten or on Twitter, ranting about social injustice and Brexit.





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Jessica Rani Pathak - Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Lead, Salford City Council



Jessica began working for Salford City Council as Equality Diversity & Inclusion Lead in April this year. Starting a job whilst in lockdown was certainly a challenge!

Born in Jamaica, the youngest of five siblings, Jessica moved to Salford when she was six months old. Apart from three years living in Chester whilst studying, Jessica has been in Salford ever since.

Jessica started her career as a youth worker in Salford and Lancashire, working as a HIV peer education worker on a young people's health project, and working with Asian girls and women. Building on personal experience of being multiple heritage, Jessica was employed to set up the first project for BAME young people in Salford for Salford Youth Service.

In 1995 Jessica was involved in the Council of Europe's All Different, All Equal Campaign – a campaign against Racism, Anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance. This started her

career in equalities work, which has spanned 25+ years.

Jessica has also worked for Trafford Council, Barnardo's, the NHS and Salford CVS.

Jessica is passionate about equalities, supporting change and ending discrimination, especially when working alongside people to make this happen.

Away from work, Jessica loves spending time with her husband, family, friends and her fabulous dog Sunny, travelling, talking, reading, and drinking tea!

