



Riaz Ravat BEM DL

Riaz Ravat is Deputy Director of St Philip's Centre, a leading national charity established by the Diocese of Leicester to create and enhance positive interfaith relations. He works with many organisations including community groups, local and central government, schools and colleges, universities and the Police.

St Philip's Centre delivers a wide range of interfaith programmes across the nation and engages over 10,000 people per annum in its work.

Riaz has contributed to many national initiatives including the Prime Minister's Extremism Task Force, the Commission on Religion & Belief in Public Life, the Department for Communities & Local Government's (DCLG) work on integration and pioneered Catalyst – a national, young adults interfaith and leadership programme. In 2014, he was invited to Oman by the Ministry of Religious Affairs to present his work to an international audience including the United Nations.



Riaz plays an active role in the civic life of Leicestershire including as member of the Leicester Cathedral Council. In 2012, for HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee tour which began in Leicester, Riaz escorted HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

In 2013, Riaz was conferred a British Empire Medal (BEM) by The Queen for services to interfaith understanding and later that year was named Alumnus of the Year by De Montfort University for 'uniting different cultures, races and religions'. In 2010 he was the first recipient of the Leicestershire First Citizenship Award, and in 2015 became a Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire.

Riaz advises many bodies including the Crown Prosecution Service's East Midlands Hate Crime Panel, the Association of Chief Police Officers' Prevent Challenge Panel, Bishop of Leicester's Faith Leaders Forum, Leicester College Multi Faith Chaplaincy Service, City Mayor's Faith & Community Forum and MBCOL – a death and bereavement service. He has completed terms of office as a Governor of Leicester College, member of DCLG's National Community Forum, Ofqual's Equality Advisory Group and Public Relations Officer for the Burton upon Trent Inter Faith Network. Prior to his role at St Philip's Centre, Riaz had served in media communications and patient engagement roles in the National Health Service for five years.