

Aswini Weeraratne QC

Barrister

Doughty Street Chambers



Aswini's expertise focuses on the protection of children and adults in vulnerable situations in society, usually because of mental disability, or abuse and exploitation, through litigation and advisory work with an emphasis on human rights. Race and discrimination issues are increasingly a feature of her work.

Aswini also has extensive experience of investigatory procedures, in public inquiries, inquests, and as independent chair of inquiries, tribunals and professional regulatory bodies. She has chaired six independent homicide inquiries. She appears in courts and tribunals at all levels, including the Supreme Court. She is a qualified mediator.

David Lammy MP

Shadow Justice Secretary

Associate Tenant, Doughty Street Chambers



Born in Tottenham, north London, David was awarded a choral scholarship to The King's School, a state boarding school in Peterborough. David graduated with a Bachelors of Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies, before becoming the first Black Briton to attend Harvard Law School, where he graduated with a Master of Law degree in 1997. He then practised as a barrister in England and as an attorney in the United States.

In 2000, aged 27, David became the then youngest Member of Parliament, representing Tottenham. Since entering Parliament, he served for nine years as a Minister in the Blair and Brown governments, in several departments including the Department of Constitutional Affairs, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

As an opposition backbencher, David gained reputation for being one of Parliament's most successful campaigning MPs. Often involved in high profile cases affecting his constituents- Victoria Climbié, Baby P and Mark Duggan. In January 2016, the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, asked David to lead an independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the criminal justice system. The Lammy Review was published in September 2017, and many of its recommendations continue to guide government policy to this day.

David led the campaign to guarantee the right of Commonwealth nationals impacted by the Windrush scandal, prompting the government to establish the Windrush Lessons Learned Review and compensation scheme. He has also been at the forefront of the struggle for justice for families impacted by the Grenfell Tower fire, helping to secure an independent inquiry, as well as compensation scheme for victims. In 2018, David was awarded Politician of The Year by The Political Studies Association and GQ Magazine, as well as Campaigner of The Year by The Spectator magazine.

In April 2020, David was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Shadow Lord Chancellor.

David is the author of two books: 'Out of the Ashes' (2011), which examines the causes of the 2011 London riots, as well as 'Tribes: How Our Need to Belong Can Make or Break Society' (2020) which explores solutions to the tribalism that has gripped politics in the 21st century. David is a member of the Privy Council and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He holds an honorary doctorate from the University of East London, and is a fellow of the University of Birckbeck, St John's College Durham and City Lit.

Intisar Chowdhury

Student and Activist



Intisar Chowdhury is the nineteen-year-old son of the late Dr Abdul Mabud Chowdhury, who implored the Prime Minister in an open letter to provide frontline healthcare workers with adequate personal protective equipment. In the months following the death of his father, Intisar advocated for increased PPE on behalf of the NHS workforce through press interviews, podcasts and documentaries. He challenged the Health Secretary to address the shortcomings of the government's response to the pandemic. Intisar has been inspired by his father's many humanitarian projects and hopes to continue this work together with his mother, Dr Rehana Akther, and sister, Wareesha Chowdhury.

Dr Sunil Dasan

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Dr Sunil Dasan is a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at St George's Hospital, London.

He specialises in the urgent and emergency care of patients with a particular focus on vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups.

He also has an interest in staff support and has held roles leading local emergency teams, supporting junior doctors working in hospital and primary care settings across South London and promoting positive approaches to improve staff retention nationally on behalf of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine. He is now working on projects focussed on developing inclusive cultures and practices amongst NHS staff.

Angela Saini

Science Journalist, Broadcaster and Author



Angela Saini is an award-winning British science journalist and broadcaster. She presents science programmes on the BBC, and her writing has appeared in *New Scientist*, *The Sunday Times*, *National Geographic* and *Wired*. Her latest book, *Superior: the Return of Race Science*, was a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize and named a book of the year by *The Telegraph*, *Nature* and *Financial Times*. Her previous book, *Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong*, has been translated into thirteen languages. Angela has a Masters in Engineering from the University of Oxford and was a Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has written on the issue of Covid-19 and race for *The Guardian* and *The Lancet*.

Jamie Burton

Barrister

Doughty Street Chambers



Jamie is a human rights and discrimination specialist who advocates for social and economic justice. Head of Chamber's Community Care and Health Team, Jamie is a leading authority on health and social care, homelessness, the Care Act 2014 and the rights of disabled people, children and migrants. He is an expert in judicial review and regularly appears in the higher courts, including the Supreme Court.

Jamie acts in human rights, tort and contract claims involving public authorities and private parties. He is particularly well known for bringing civil claims against the police on behalf of victims of crime.

He is regularly instructed by charities and NGOs and is on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's A Panel of counsel. He also advises public authorities on their policies in relation to their statutory and human rights obligations.

In the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry Jamie acted for various bereaved, survivors and residents affected by the fire.

Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon OBE

Mother of Stephen Lawrence, Life Peer and Author



Baroness Doreen Lawrence was awarded the OBE for services to community relations in 2003 and since then she has been made a life peer in the House of Lords in 2013. She has won praise for her tireless dedication to community, anti-racism and other causes close to her heart and she was recently named the most powerful woman in the country by the BBC. Her spirit and resilience and demand for a better way have genuinely changed an institution at the core of British life.

Doreen Lawrence continues to advocate and provide a voice for the voiceless with her continued commitment to inequalities in societies globally and supports many good causes and travels initiatives that provide opportunities to young people that were tragically denied to her son Stephen by his senseless murder in 1993.

Her efforts in seeking justice for Stephen's murder has seen her on-going commitment lead to an investigation into claims of police corruption and, for her, the changes in policing remain 'only partly done' in her wish to see Britain become a fairer, just and tolerant society for all.

Despite setbacks in her campaign, Baroness Lawrence is able to inspire an example of leadership as a powerhouse of courage, quietly persuading young people to have the confidence to overcome the barriers and hurdles that they face in life.

Following 22 years as the Founding Trustee and President of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, she stepped down to establish the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation where she is continuing to provide 'a legacy of hope' for young people, in particular boys of colour and disadvantaged communities with educational opportunities, community cohesion and career advancement.