



Professor Surinder Sharma DL

Surinder was born in Nairobi, Kenya and came to Leicester with his parents in 1965. He has been a resident of Leicester ever since. After studying at local schools, he gained a Law Degree at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

He was appointed as the first National Director for Equality & Human Rights at the Department of Health and has over 40 years experience of leadership in achieving cultural organisational change and championing equality, fairness, diversity and inclusion.

He is the Co-Founder and the Co-Director for the Centre for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (DICE) and School of Media, Communication and Sociology at the University of Leicester.



His career has spanned working in a variety of leadership roles; for regulators at the Commission for Racial Equality, in broadcasting as the Head of Diversity at BBC Television, in retail as Head of Diversity, at Littlewoods, and in manufacturing as Director of Diversity at the Ford Motor Company (Europe).

He served as an elected member on Leicester City Council, as a Justice of the Peace at the Leicester City Magistrates Court for over 25 years, as High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 2016-17, and as a Member of the Governing Council of Aston University and as a Trustee of UNICEF UK.

He serves as a Trustee on the Boards of various charities, including, Leicester Race Equality Centre, the National Space Centre, Charity Link, Phoenix Cinema and Arts Centre, Leicestershire & Rutland Football and as an Independent Person for Leicestershire County Council. He was appointed as an Alderman of the City of Leicester in 2013 and commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire in 2017.

He has been recognised for his service and awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of Leicester, De Montfort University, Aston University, Birmingham City University and Honorary Professorships from the University of Manchester and Wolverhampton University.

Surinder is married to Vijay, and they have two children.