

# **The Honorary Graduate: Somina Fombo**

## **The Orator: Dr Zainab Khan**

### **Somina Fombo is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration**

Somina is an entrepreneur, a purposeful coach, facilitator, motivational speaker, consultant and activist. One of Bristol's biggest influencers and 'doer's' on issues of equality, inclusion and promoting diversity.

Somina is the Founder and Director of Black Girl Convention, launched in Bristol 2017 which is a movement to ensure that all women of African and Caribbean heritage have a sense of home by sharing, shaping and owning the Black Girl Experience. Black Girl Convention also launched the UK's first Digi Tech Retreat for Black Women.

Somina completed her early education with The University of the West of England, culminating in a Bachelor of Arts honours degree in Time-Based Media in 2004. Later, she gained a BSc Foundation Degree in Youth and Community work from Bath University.

Whilst in Bristol working in the youth sector, Somina cofounded a Muslim Girls project supporting young women to have a voice within media and sat on the board of the Muslim Cultural Society with a focus on championing young people and gender equality.

The following several years were based in London between 2008-2015 creating and delivering powerful leadership experiences both nationally and internationally with Changemakers UK, championing diversity nationally within the British Redcross and campaigning for inclusion and representation across political leadership and charity governance with UpRising Leadership, Somina returned to Bristol to take up a role with Knowle West Media Centre focussed on diversifying the creative industries through leading the Young People's programme and the Creative Agency Eight.

In 2017 Somina Launched the internationally recognised campaign and TEDx Talk 'No. You Cannot Touch My Hair' which has since gone on to be used as an educational resource in schools, colleges and within the public and private sector exploring daily micro aggressions experienced primarily by black women.

Somina is a trailblazer across the region, working as consultant cross sector on issues for equality and diversity, Somina has been the BAME student coach on UWE Equity since inception in 2017, sits on the UWE Law and Business Reference Group, has been an Agent for Change with the Arts Council, she is regional representative on the South West Technology Reference Group, is a regular feature in the South speaking on issues of diversity and inclusion including BBC, ARUP, and across London and South East councils, NGO's and Business.

Somina has received certified training with the International Coaching Federation and the Association for Coaching; She is a MOE Foundation Alumni, and a 2017 TEDx Bristol Speaker.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Somina's ongoing commitment to support the political, social and economic equality of the BAME community and women in particular.