

## **Statement of Support**

By Mr Nazir Afzal O.B.E, former Chief Prosecutor for the North West Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and former Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

"I think Salma's ground breaking art project is an excellent way of promoting and creating dialogue between diverse communities here, in the UK.

It brings together people from all communities, whatever their faith and cultural background, for a meaningful discussion on migration and the contributions made by refugees and economic migrants. It also forms a better understanding of integration of migrants, which is key in tackling hate crimes and preventing extremism. Her experiences of working on humanitarian issues with the United Nations (UN) and her personal insight, as a British Pakistani woman, into the problems faced by migrants gives her a unique perspective on the issues affecting Birmingham, the UK and the world."

During Nazir Afzal's time with the CPS, he pioneered work to tackle honour-based violence and forced marriage, initially bringing this issue to the top of the public agenda through a CPS conference in 2004. He was the national CPS lead on tackling these crimes and on tackling Violence Against Women (domestic violence, rape and other violent offences in which women are predominantly the victims).

Mr Nazir was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Years Honours List in 2005 for his public service and involvement with the local community and was named Legal Personality of the Year by the Society of Asian Lawyers, which represents around 15,000 professionals.