

Sultana Tafadar KC

Call: 2005 | Silk: 2022



Sultana Tafadar KC has an extensive, high profile practice across counter terrorism and national security, criminal justice, human rights, public law and public international law.

A multi-award-winning King's Counsel, Sultana offers an exceptional blend of dynamic, diverse, and versatile legal expertise.

Sultana advises and acts for individuals, States, NGOs, multinational corporations and other national and international bodies, appearing in courts at all levels. With a proven track record, a formidable skill set, and an unmatched proficiency across various practice areas, her legal services are delivered with precision & excellence.

Sultana holds a number of national and international human rights-related appointments, including Chair of the Bar Standards Board Taskforce on Religion & Belief; and the Advisory Board of Influencing Corridors of Power (ICOP), SOAS, University of London, She is a Council Member for JUSTICE; Member of Legal Expert Advisory Panel for Fair Trials International (LEAP); Special Advisor on Human Rights for the Oxford Initiative for Global Ethics and Human Rights; Member of the Detention Experience Community of Avocat Sans Frontieres (ASF); the Roster for Criminal

Justice Sector Experts dealing with Counter-Terrorism, Organisation for Security & Cooperation in Europe. (OSCE) and Founder of Girls Human Rights Hub. She previously worked at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International (AI) in the Africa Program; the Middle East Program; and the International Justice Project of the International Law Program.

Sultana is the Winner of Barrister of the Year, Inspirational Women in Law Awards, 2022; Winner of the Professions Category, Asian Women of Achievement, 2021; HERoes Top 100 Women Future Leaders, 2021; Finalist in BSN Lawyer of the Year (Chambers), UK Legal Diversity Awards, 2021; Finalist in Outstanding Woman in Professional category sponsored by Baker McKenzie, Precious Awards 2021.

Expertise

Counter Terrorism & National Security

Sultana is widely recognised as one of the foremost experts in counter-terrorism, national security, and radicalisation cases. With a

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portfolio of approx. 50 high-profile and landmark cases, her unique expertise spans the Criminal Courts, Coronial Courts, Administrative & Family Divisions of the High Court, and the Appellate Courts. She acts and advises in the whole spectrum of cases in this area ranging from criminal cases, cases involving Terrorism Prevention & Investigation Measures (TPIMS), parole board hearings, radicalisation & extremism cases in the family courts, Prevent-related cases, inquests and inquiries, extradition, terrorism financing, and appeals. She is part of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Roster of Criminal Justice Sector Experts dealing with Counter-Terrorism; and sat on the Legal Advisory Panel of the People's Review of Prevent. Most of her cases give rise to international dimensions and human rights intricacies.

Recognised as a Tier 1 Silk, Sultana's impressive track record of success lies in her robust advocacy and strategic approach to the multifaceted challenges presented by the factual, evidential, legal complexities in these types of cases. Her work delves into cutting-edge law, theological content, extensive digital evidence, highly sensitive 'secret' materials, and complex disclosure issues. Some of the high-profile cases she has acted in include:

Public Law, Civil Liberties & Human Rights

Sultana represents individuals and NGOs in a broad range of public law matters, primarily focusing on cases raising questions of civil liberties and human rights, as well as international law and national security matters. Her work includes advise and representation at parole board hearings, extremism & radicalisation cases, Prevent-related cases, inquests and inquiries, and extradition. She is experienced in cases involving closed material procedures. Her domestic practice is complemented by her international human rights practice (see below).

Criminal Justice & Appellate

Sultana has extensive experience of trial and appellate advocacy and is recognised as a Tier 1 Silk in Crime. She leads in lengthy multi-handed terrorism, homicide, and white-collar crime cases involving complex legal and factual matrices. She has a strong track record of appearing in the Court of Appeal in England & Wales. Sultana also advises and represents large Multinational Corporations on issues at the intersection of criminal law and human rights obligations across multiple jurisdictions.

Many of Sultana's cases have a human rights dimension. She has vast experience in successfully challenging *expert evidence* relating to *hi-tech evidence* (phone & computer, cell site & call data, social media & internet); *scientific evidence* (forensic, medical, pathology, psychology & psychiatry); *'gang' related evidence* (drill music, affiliations & memberships, police 'expert' evidence, joint enterprise); *financial evidence* (banking & accounting evidence, surveillance & search warrants, disclosure & abuse of process). Some of the cases she has acted in (in addition to the ones listed above) include:

Public International Law, International Criminal Law, & International Humanitarian Law

Sultana advises state parties and non-governmental organisations on matters concerning disputes between states including genocide, violations of the laws of armed conflict, the investigation and the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in domestic courts and the International Criminal Court. In addition to litigation, she engages in a wide array of advisory, consultancy, and capacity-building activities in these critical areas. Sultana advises and represents state parties and organisations on matters including:

International Human Rights Law

Sultana represents individuals and organisations on the engagement of treaty-based and regional human rights complaint procedures in

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human rights complaints including the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee, and the Special Procedures mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council. She has a particular expertise in cases involving the right to freedom of religion & belief, right to freedom of expression, and the right to protest, engaging Articles 9, 10 and 11, and in matters concerning the right to liberty and the right to a fair trial, engaging Article 5 and 6. Her notable cases include:

Awards



Accreditations

- **Winner of Barrister of the Year**, Inspirational Women in Law Awards, 2022;
- **Winner of the Professions Category**, Asian Women of Achievement, 2021;
- **HERoes Top 100 Women Future Leaders**, 2021;
- **Finalist in BSN Lawyer of the Year** (Chambers), UK Legal Diversity Awards, 2021;
- **Finalist in Outstanding Woman in Professional category** sponsored by Baker McKenzie, Precious Awards 2021.

Appointments

- **Founder, Girls Human Rights Hub** – non-profit empowering girls to use advocacy, leadership & litigation to advance gender equality & eradicate gender-based violence. (June 2022 – Present).
- **Chair, Taskforce on Religion & Belief, Bar Standards Board** – Advising BSB on the development of strategy, policy and activity to how to advance equality of opportunity, diversity, and inclusivity at the Bar with regards to religion & belief. (April 2021- Present)
- **JUSTICE, Council Member** – Contributing to the work of law reform and human rights charity, working to reform the UK justice system. (Jan 2023 – Present)
- **Advisory Board, Influencing Corridors of Power (ICOP), School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London** – Promoting university-based research in Westminster. Advising on enquiries and new, proposed legislation. (Feb 2022 – Present)
- **Legal Advisory Panel, The People’s Review of Prevent** – Alternative review platform giving a voice to those impacted by the Prevent duty, Countering Violent Extremism programme in the UK. (Aug 2021-2022)
- **Special Advisor on Human Rights, Oxford Initiative for Global Ethics & Human Rights** Advising on projects in relation international human rights issues. (July 2020 – Present)
- **Head of Strategic Litigation, Muslim Lawyers Action Group (MLAG)** – Overseeing strategic litigation cases; advising on legal developments (April 2020 – 2022).

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- **Member of Legal Expert Advisory Panel (LEAP), Fair Trial International** – Advise on fair trial safeguards, pre-trial detention, appeals processes. Annual conferences: Netherlands (Feb 2015), Greece (Mar 2017), Bulgaria (Feb 2018), Online (2021). (Oct 2014 – Present)
- **Roster for Criminal Justice Sector Experts dealing with Counter** – Terrorism, Organisation for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – Roster of experts to assist with responses to terrorism consistent with human rights standards. (2015-Present)
- **Member of Detention Experience, Advocats Sans Frontières (ASF)** – Specialist network of lawyers providing legal responses to arbitrary detentions in Uganda. (Dec 2020 -Present)

Qualifications

- LLB (Hons)
- LLM (Human Rights Law) (London)
- MSt (International Human Rights Law) (Oxon)
- Called to the Bar 2005.

Keynote Speeches, Conferences & Publications

- Annabel's International Women's Day 2024.
- 'Q&A at Iftar Event', Farrer & Co, 2024.
- 'Girls Human Rights Festival', hosted five day festival at the Supreme Court, House of Lords, Fieldfisher LLP, Hogan Lovells LLP, Old Square Chambers, 2024
- 'Inspiring Inclusion: Women in Law', Support Through Court, at Baker Mckenzie LLP, 2024
- Keynote Speech, The New College Law Society Dinner, Oxford University, Mayfair, London, 2024
- 'A Talk with Sultana Tafadar KC', Cambridge University Law Society, 2024
- 'Law, Justice & Human Rights', University of Cambridge, 2024
- Keynote Speech, Allen & Overy LLP, London 2023
- 'Afternoon Tea with Sultana Tafadar KC', Oxford Bar Society, University of Oxford, 2023.
- Keynote Speech, Hogan Lovells International LLP, London, 2023
- 'Religious Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace', Keynote Speech, Schroders, London, 2023
- 'Women in Leadership' Series, Ernest & Young LLP, London, 2022
- 5th International Women and Justice Summit, Kadem, Istanbul, Turkey, 2022.
- Keynote Speech, Clifford Chance London, 2022
- 'Breaking Barriers', Race Equality Committee, Women in Criminal Law, 2022
- 'In Conversation with Sultana Tafadar KC', Bird & Bird LLP & Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, London, 2022
- 'Inspirational Women' Series, Oxford Women in Business, University of Oxford, 2022.
- 'Free Speech in the Digital Age', New College Essay Society, University of Oxford, 2022
- 'Russia/ Ukraine Conflict and the Rule of Law', JUSTICE Student Conference 2022
- 'The Measures and Impact of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2021)', Crime & Human Rights, JUSTICE Human Rights Conference 2021.
- 'The Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill', Briefing, Influencing Corridors of Power, SOAS, November 2020.
- 'The Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) Bill', Briefing, Influencing Corridors of Power, SOAS, November 2020.
- 'The Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill', Chair of MLAG Webinar, November 2020.
- 'The Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) Bill', Chair of webinar, Nov 2020.

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- Visible Justice: Embodied Activism Symposium, '*How the black/ brown injured body is represented in contemporary media and art, and legal frameworks*', LCC, University of the Arts London, May 2019.
- LEAP Annual Conferences, Fair Trials International: Netherlands (Feb 2015), Greece (March 2017), Bulgaria (Feb 2018); 2020-22 (online).
- '*Charades*', video collaboration between David Birkin and Reprieve on the Third Directive, 2018
<https://www.davidbirkin.net/charade/>
- '*Strategic litigation workshop with focus on counter-terrorism*', Sciences Po Paris, School of International Affairs & Open Society Justice Initiative, Paris, 2017.
- '*Raising the Bar*' with Rob Rinder, Topic: Terrorism laws, BBC Radio 5 Live, 2016.
- '*Race Equality: "Removing Barriers"*', Home Office, The Network's 15th Annual General Meeting, London, March 2015.
- Designed & delivered Advocacy training for NGOs, Oxfam, London, 2014.
- *Advocacy training programme*, Amnesty International, London, 2014.
- *Advocacy training programme*, Women for Women International, London, 2014.
- '*Privacy in Public Life: The Case of Ken Livingstone*', NLJ, Jan 2007.

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