



Nazir Afzal OBE

Chancellor of the University of Manchester, International Adviser on Rule of Law & Former Chief Prosecutor

Disruptor For Good
NPWAwards Winner 2022

HOW TO BECOME A DISRUPTOR FOR GOOD

NORTHERN POWER WOMEN
PODCAST



Nazir's Story

- Nazir was Chief Crown Prosecutor for NW England and formerly Director in London. He was Chief Executive of the country's Police & Crime Commissioners and National Adviser to the Welsh Government.
- During a 30 year career he has prosecuted the most high profile cases in the country & advised on many others and led nationally on several legal topics including Violence against Women & Girls, child sexual abuse, and honour-based violence. His prosecutions of the so-called Rochdale grooming gang and hundreds of others were groundbreaking and changed the landscape of child protection.
- Nazir has received many accolades. In 2005 he was awarded an OBE by the Queen for his work. He has also had the honour of being the only lawyer to ever prosecute a case before the Queen. Nazir was also selected for the Asian Power 100 along with the Muslim Power 100 list, recognised as one of the 100 most influential leading Muslims and Asians in the UK.
- His memoirs "The Prosecutor" published in 2020 are currently being adapted for a British multipart drama. His new book "The Race to the Top" has just been published.

How can you use your voice to get a seat at the table and use your power for good?

- Find out who you are talking to and engaging with
- Do your research: preparation is key
- Make sure to think about what you want to say
- Build relationships with allies
- Remember that you're not alone and there will be people to support you

Why Nazir didn't identify as a disruptor until he won the award

"When you gave me the Disruptor for Good Award last year, that's the first time I saw myself as a disruptor. It was not a term I used. But it absolutely encapsulates what I do, which is that I don't like the status quo. I don't like the fact that people keep doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different outcome. I'm always there offering challenge and offering support and offering ideas and also being an advocate for other people who have ideas. So absolutely 'disruptor' was the strangest [description]... took 59 years to get that label. But it's absolutely the label that I recognise now, but I also recognise 'convener'. I like bringing people together. And I think that's something I will hopefully do more of in the future."

What is next for Nazir?

"I need to use and leverage all the talents and relationships I've built. So I am going international, I'm going global.

But also I'm going very local...I'm very much a believer in being the chancellor at Manchester University. It gives me enormous opportunity to use all the facilities and the services that university have for good in whatever way I think I can. It'll be around gender rights, it'll be around equalities more generally. So I'm going to leverage all the skills and opportunities I've been given and continue to do so.

Next week, I am 60 years old. Right now even I can't believe I'm 60 years old. But I mark it by saying I'm recommitting myself to ensuring that this world is fairer than it's ever been. "