

Honours

## Hanif Qadir

(1965-)

### *“You’re Being An Angel”*

**Hanif Qadir was born** in Thornaby-on-Tees in Northern England. He moved with his family to Walthamstow, a town in Northeast London, when he was fourteen. He still lives there with his wife and three children. With his brothers, Imtiaz and Abad, the siblings operated very successful businesses in textiles, taxi services, and motor vehicle garages.

Then one day in 2002, Hanif traveled to Afghanistan via Pakistan to become a jihadi. He and his brothers had become “seduced by the false blandishments of extremist ‘recruiters’ who were (and still are) active” in their neighbourhood.

Instead of recruiting Hanif, the Mujahideen unknowingly opened up Hanif’s spiritual eyes to the horrors they were committing. He returned to England a changed man. He converted his brothers away from extremism and starting in 2003, with their friend Mike Jervis, they began to divert others away from extreme Islam.

The four run **The Active Change Foundation** to prevent violence among Muslims through services provided in their gym and youth club. <http://www.activechangefoundation.org>



(left-right) Abad Qadir, Mike Jervis,  
Hanif Qadir, Imtiaz Qadir

*“They who have the love of self and of the world for an end, cannot in any wise be in charity; they do not even know what charity is” wrote Emanuel Swedenborg “and they cannot at all comprehend that to will and do good to the neighbor without reward as an end, is heaven in a person, and that there is in that affection a happiness as great as that of the angels of heaven, which is ineffable; for they believe, if they are deprived of the joy from the glory of honors and riches, that nothing of joy can be given them any longer; when yet it is then that heavenly joy first begins, which infinitely transcends the other.”*

Hanif Qadir, by your bravery in stepping away from the Mujahideen who are attempting to rob young people of their lives, and by choosing instead to help others to do kindnesses, you are being an angelic role model.

You are doing as the angels in heaven do—charity, not violence—to promote social cohesion. Your personal sacrifices are beyond what most would do for others.

Thank you!

*Candace Frazee*

Candace Frazee - Madam Chair of *SILA*  
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