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## Professional Bio — Aarif Rasheed

***Aarif Rasheed*** is a lawyer, mediator, interfaith and intercultural trainer/facilitator:

- Founding Trustee, Religious Diversity Centre: 2015-
- Board Member, Methodist Mission Northern: 2016-
- Executive Member, Council of Christians & Muslims: 2006- (father's<sup>1</sup> death)
- Founding Trustee of Rasheed Memorial Trust: 2003-
  
- Graduate degrees<sup>2</sup> in health-related sciences and law: 2001,2004-
- Traditional student of traditional Islamic sciences and faith teachings: 1997-
- Student of traditional health and well-being sciences: 2015-<sup>3</sup>
  
- Facilitator, Religious Education, Community Education & Interfaith Education: 2004-
- Cultural trainer<sup>4</sup>, private and public sector, incl. enforcement, legal sectors: 2009
  
- Lecturer (universities, schools and community groups) on: law, faith, human rights, cultural values, indigenous and Abrahamic peoples (incl Islamic) culture, values: 2006-
  
- Lawyer: Criminal Law, Human Rights law, Criminal Justice System,
- Mediator, Adjudicator (Arb. Med. Institute of NZ), Fmr. Referee, Disputes Tribunal NZ.
- Community Advocate: Advocacy, Indigenous and Traditional Peoples. Law Reform
- Public sector advisor, Human Rights Commission, Office of Ethnic Communities etc.
  
- Practitioner and Presenter, Therapeutic Jurisprudence<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Abdul Rasheed (d.2006), lawyer 1971-1995, graduate in Christian Theology, founder Council of Christians & Muslims in 1996, amongst many other peace and cohesion initiatives.

<sup>2</sup> University of Auckland, 2001 (Health-related Sciences), 2004 (Law)

<sup>3</sup> College of Medicine and Healing Arts (UK): traditional and evidence-based well-being principles understanding the combined modern and traditional definitions of wellness.

<sup>4</sup> Cultural Training provided under "Rasheed Memorial Trust" — dedicated to his the late Abdul Rasheed's educational and intercultural/interfaith works

<sup>5</sup> Adversarial and non-adversarial justice incl problem-solving courts (assisted in establishment of Alcohol and Other Drug Court (pilot) 2010-2012).

*-Provider of advice to courts on complex cultural/religious cases<sup>6</sup>  
- Religious Rehabilitation Services Provider<sup>7</sup> 2012-*

*“Aarif was born in NZ to Fijian-Indian Muslim parents, his mother’s family being both Hindu and also Christian.*

*Aarif has developed into a human rights, peace and restorative justice practitioner who aspires to uphold both compassion and justice as parallel essentials to successful conflict and case resolution for both individuals and communities.*

*He is interested in the development of legal, linguistic, and justice literacy in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Rule of Law, and specifically the role of traditional, adaptive legal systems to meet the complex needs of post-modern pluralist societies.”*

*Amongst the professional/service organisations Aarif has recently founded:*

*-Founding Director of JustCommunity — a cultural awareness and advocacy consultancy*

*-Founder of Mizan Library, a specialist faith, law, spirituality and well-being library focusing on spirituality and practice in the modern world.*

*-Founder of Roskill Community Law, a niche law office catering for diverse and complex ethnic and religious communities.*

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<sup>6</sup> Most recently in *R v Samsuddin* [2018] NZHC 2465

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

Refer: *Rehabilitation Services in Religious Extremism Cases*