



## **Dr Catherine Gilbert has been appointed as the new Chair of ISHAMI FOUNDATION**

We are incredibly pleased to announce that Dr Catherine Gilbert has taken over as Chair of Ishami Foundation from Zoe Norridge who stepped down last April. Dr Gilbert is an Academic Track Fellow at Newcastle University. She is an esteemed academic and writer and recently won the SAGE Memory Studies Association Outstanding First Book Award in 2019 with her monograph *From Surviving to Living: Voice, Trauma and Witness in Rwandan Women's Writing*. Her exceptional work examined the published testimonies written by Rwandan women genocide survivors. Her latest project explores genocide commemoration and education in the Rwandan diaspora as well as the denial of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

We are delighted that she is joining us at the Foundation, and we look forward to working together to fulfill our core values.

Dr Catherine Gilbert said:

*I am honoured to be appointed as Chair of the Ishami Foundation and to follow on from Zoe Norridge's inspirational leadership as the inaugural Chair. As a young charity, Ishami has an important role to play in promoting survivors' voices and engaging public audiences across the country. My mission as Chair is to help the Foundation increase collaborations with schools and advocate for the inclusion of teaching the history of recent genocides in the national curriculum. I strongly believe in the power of storytelling to create change and empower communities, and it is a real privilege for me to work with this inspiring team to achieve these goals.*

We thank Dr Zoe Norridge for her leadership and support and are delighted that since standing down in April has remained an active member of the Advisory Board with a particular interest in education and storytelling. We also thank Paul Ryumugabe for his role as acting chair over the past seven months.

We are also pleased to announce that Joel Freedman has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Board of Trustees, switching from his previous role as Youth Trustee. We look forward to continuing to work with Joel in his new position.

**Ishami Foundation**