**Just Festival presents - Faith-based Courts – a conversation**  
What autonomy should faith-based and family courts have in the UK? And how can it be ensured that an individual's basic human rights, and the right to a fair trial, are respected within a religious framework?

An open discussion on the practice of Sharia and Jewish courts in the UK, **Faith-based Courts** will seek to explore what faith-based courts do, what they are used for, and what legal accommodations are made for the UK’s Muslim and Jewish communities.

The conversation will be chaired by **Brent Haywood**, of **Lindsays.** The panel will feature **Professor Mona Siddiqui**, of the **University of Edinburgh**, and one of Britain’s most prominent scholars of Islamic law. Professor Siddiqui has appeared on BBC Radio Scotland’s Thought for the Day, BBC Radio 4’s The Moral Maze, and chairs the BBC’s Religious Advisory Committee in Scotland. In 2016, she led an independent review of shari`a councils across the UK.

The panel will also include **Ephraim Borowski**, director of **The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, SCoJeC.** Ephraim chairs the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group (NISAG), which advises Police Scotland on diversity matters, including hate crimes. He has been Convener of Bemis, the Scottish ethnic minority umbrella organisation, and a member of the Race Equality Advisory Forum. Prior to retiring, he was Head of the Philosophy department at Glasgow University. Speakers will also include **Dr Joshua Ralston**, Lecturer in Muslim-Christian Relations at the **School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh.** He is a regular contributor to ABC's Religion and Ethics Portal, and is an editor at Syndicate Network, an online forum for scholarship in the humanities.

*"In recent years there has been a lot of attention - some of it misguided - about Sharia Courts and Batei Din in some sections of the media; so it will be good to have an opportunity to explore the facts, discuss the issues, and correct misunderstandings."* **Ephraim Borowski**

https://www.just-festival.org/2018-just-festival-programme#/faithbasedcourts/

**Chair:** Brent Haywood (Lindsays)

**Panelists:**   
Prof Mona Siddiqui OBE, FRSE, FRSA (University of Edinburgh)  
Ephraim Borowski (The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, SCoJeC)  
Dr Joshua Ralston (University of Edinburgh)    
  
**Listings information: Faith-based Courts**Venue: The Just Festival @ St John’s  (Venue 127)       
Dates:  17 Aug  
Tickets: Free, but ticketed     
Time:   17.00 (1hr 30 mins)       
Online: <https://www.just-festival.org/box-office/>