**RAFIQUE GANGAT**

Studied Philosophy and English at the University of Natal in South Africa and later obtained a Master’s Degree in Communication at USC in California.

Post University, worked in the Music Business in Johannesburg, at a time when music was instrumental in breaking down the barriers created by Apartheid. Later obtained a scholarship to attend The Leadership Institute of South Africa’s mini-MBA Leadership Course and then continued to work for The South African Broadcasting Services, on Radio and Television.

Embarked on a Diplomatic Career in 1986, to become the ‘first-ever’ Career Diplomat ‘of-colour’ in the Department of Foreign Affairs - served in Beverly Hills (Vice-Consul), Head Office (Spokesperson), Karachi (Consul General), Abu Dhabi (Ambassador), Head-Office (North Africa Division) and finally in Palestine (Ambassador).

After leaving the diplomatic service, set up an English Radio Station (RAM FM) in Ramallah/Jerusalem, modelled on a successful South African one, Radio 702, which Nelson Mandela affirmed, played a significant role in reconciliation in Post-Apartheid South Africa. With its closure, due to political pressure, went onto assist wife (Palestinian) in setting up the first and currently only Women Radio Station (Nissa Fm) in the Arab World.

Professional expertise in Communications, Media, Negotiations, Creative Thinking and International Relations.