



LIAM BLACK

Business founder, social entrepreneur, mentor, connector, investor, speaker, writer and Executive Chairman.

I operate in an eco-system that stretches from the rural areas of Bangladesh to the heart of Silicon Valley.

My passions are family, entrepreneurship, authentic leadership and developing creativity and innovation. My strengths are my networks, hard won leadership, business insight, straight talking and knowing when to leave.

LEADERSHIP HISTORY

» **Big White Wall**

Executive Chairman

April 2018 – present

Big White Wall is a global 24/7/365 anonymous and moderated online platform – regulated by the Care Quality Commission – for people living with anxiety and depression. I am responsible for the recruiting and landing of a new CEO, the securing of next stage investment, a radical overhaul of the platform and overseeing the launch of the service in Canada.

» **Impact Ventures UK**

Adviser

February 2013 – present

IVUK manages a ten-year capital growth fund which invests in fast growing companies delivering more than profit. At start up I helped shape the business and the fundraising strategy. Today I am a member of the investment committee and adviser to the Executive Team.

» **Centrica Innovations**

Adviser

October 2013 – present

Centrica Innovations is a £100 million fund created "to invest in new technology and ideas that will transform the way we live, work and move." I was a founder member of the original Ignite fund and I now sit on the global Technology and Innovation Advisory Council which brings together leading entrepreneurs, innovators, investors and academics.

» **Wavelength Companies Ltd**

Co-founder and Chief Encouragement Officer

January 2008 – January 2018

Wavelength is a successful boutique senior leadership executive development business which runs programmes, study tours and public events in Europe, the US and Asia. Our client and partner list includes Dyson, the BBC, Lego, IKEA, Pret, Warner Bros, Guardian Media Group, Jaguar Land Rover, Aravind Eye Care, the Eden Project, Andreessen Horowitz, Silicon Valley Bank, RocketSpace and Tesla. As a co-owner, I have been involved in all aspects of the business with full P&L responsibility, product design, marketing, sales, PR and communications, event hosting and facilitation.

» **The Jamie Oliver Group**

CEO of Fifteen Foundation

July 2004 – January 2008

I was responsible with Jamie for growing the brand and our operations in London, Cornwall, Melbourne and Amsterdam with full P&L responsibility for the business, managing the franchise network, measuring and improving our impact and acting as spokesperson to the media.

» **The FRC Group**

Chairman and CEO

January 1993 – June 2004

FRC was active in furniture manufacturing, retail, logistics and recycling across the north of England, based in Liverpool. We offered training, support and jobs to hundreds of unemployed and formerly homeless people and furnished tens of thousands of homes. I created a number of businesses including Bulky Bob's (a waste recycling service in partnership with Liverpool City Council); Revive (a retail brand); the Cat's Pyjamas (a consultancy and events business in the UK, US and South Africa).

MENTORING

I work with business leaders and entrepreneurs across a range of industries including media, retail, manufacturing and social enterprise and help them get to clarity, conviction and courage.

SPEAKING

I enjoy sharing my insights and prejudices with audiences large and small. I'm often invited to talk about how hard pressed leaders can come to terms with the relentless demand for change and innovation at a time when just keeping the show on the road feels like a huge challenge. This is a selection of my audiences over the last twelve months:

- » **TD Bank (Toronto):**
Audience of 300 on leading in uncertain times.
 - » **Eden project (Cornwall):**
Audience of 100 at entrepreneur awards ceremony.
 - » **Royal Mail (London):**
Audience of 250 on culture change.
 - » **A & E Networks (London):**
Audience of 200 on leading in a digital age.
 - » **Johnson & Johnson (Milan):**
Audience of 150 on leading change.
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“Liam is an excellent Executive Chairman of this business. He’s done it all – start-up, scale-up, CEO – and he brings all this hard won but lightly worn experience to Big White Wall. His impact on the culture has been huge and his presence at the top of table gives staff and us investors a lot of confidence.”

Kevin Bone, UK Managing Partner, LGT Lightstone.

“Liam’s experience and scars, coupled with his objectivity and ability to listen, encourage and challenge, make him a brilliant and very practical mentor.”

Juliet Scott Croxford, CEO, Worth.

“I have rarely attended an event so well led. People really felt their voices were heard, but most importantly, we achieved so much. And you were very funny.”

Dorothy Byrne, Head of Channel 4 News & Current Affairs.