



Raphael Rowe

JOURNALIST • MEDIA PERSONALITY

The organisations that talk the most about resilience, accountability and speaking truth to institutions rarely hear the argument from anyone who has genuinely needed those things to survive. Most senior audiences have a comfortable relationship with adversity as a motivational theme and a far less comfortable one with the specifics: what it means to be wrong, what institutions do when they are, and what it takes to rebuild a life and a career from the other side of that experience.

Raphael Rowe is a BBC and Netflix journalist who spent nearly twelve years wrongly imprisoned for murder, and now brings that perspective to corporate audiences on resilience, accountability and the limits of institutional judgment.

Raphael Rowe's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Raphael Rowe

- His story is not a metaphor. He served close to twelve years in prison for a 1988 murder he did not commit, as part of the M25 Three case, before the Court of Appeal ruled the convictions unsafe in 2000.
- His broadcast credentials are substantial in their own right: host of Netflix's *Inside the World's Toughest Prisons* since season two, BBC *Panorama* reporter, and a track record on BBC Radio 4's *Today*, BBC One's *Six O'Clock News* and *Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago*.
- The *Panorama* investigative work, including on the Barry George case, places him inside the British public-interest journalism tradition rather than on the margin of it.
- The Raphael Rowe Foundation, his own organisation focused on prison health, education and rehabilitation, gives him a platform on institutional accountability that is active, not historical.
- He is comfortable on any stage that wants the full range of his experience, from a resilience keynote to a main-stage moderator role to an in-depth session on justice, media and institutional failure.

Biography highlights

- Presenter of Netflix's *Inside the World's Toughest Prisons* since 2018
- BBC *Panorama* reporter, BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme, BBC One *Six O'Clock News*, *Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago* (BBC Two)
- Investigative work including the wrongful conviction of Barry George in the Jill Dando murder case
- Author of autobiography *Notorious*
- Founder of the Raphael Rowe Foundation, working on prison health, education and rehabilitation

AVAILABLE FOR

- After Dinner Engagement
- Guest Appearance
- Speaking

RAPHAEL'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Motivation and Inspiration
- Storytelling & Business Communication
- Values-Based Leadership

LANGUAGES: English

- Served close to 12 years wrongly imprisoned as part of the M25 Three case; convictions ruled unsafe, 2000

Biography

The M25 Three case is one of the most-cited miscarriages of justice in modern British legal history. Raphael Rowe is one of the three men at the centre of it. Convicted in 1990 for a 1988 murder and a series of aggravated robberies, he spent close to twelve years in prison before the Court of Appeal ruled the convictions unsafe in July 2000. That experience is the reason he speaks with authority on institutional accountability, resilience and the cost of being wrong, and the reason he chose to spend the second half of his working life investigating the same systems from the outside.

Since his release, Rowe has built a career in BBC and international broadcast journalism. He has reported for and presented BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, BBC One's *Six O'Clock News* and BBC *Panorama*, where his investigations included the wrongful conviction of Barry George for the murder of Crimewatch presenter Jill Dando. Outside the newsroom, he presented *Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago* for BBC Two, a format that allowed him to explore questions of meaning and resilience at long form rather than in soundbites.

The Netflix commission is the title that most audiences now know him by. Since 2018 he has hosted *Inside the World's Toughest Prisons*, the series that has taken him into maximum-security facilities in more than 20 countries, with a perspective no other presenter in the category has: he is the only host who has served time on the other side of the bars.

The advocacy work sits alongside the broadcasting. He founded the Raphael Rowe Foundation to work on health, education and rehabilitation inside prison systems, and his autobiography *Notorious* is his first-person account of the conviction, imprisonment and rebuild. For corporate audiences, Rowe offers a resilience keynote that cannot be recreated, a host with Netflix-level recognition, and a credible voice on institutional failure when the brief calls for it.

Key speaking topics

- Resilience and rebuilding after catastrophic adversity
- Criminal justice, wrongful convictions and institutional accountability
- Investigative journalism and the public interest
- Prison reform, health, education and rehabilitation
- Ethics and accountability inside institutions
- Media craft: hosting, long-form journalism and broadcast storytelling

Ideal for

- Corporate audiences and leadership events looking for a first-person resilience keynote with substance
- Legal, justice and compliance audiences engaging with institutional accountability and miscarriage of justice
- Media, communications and PR organisations wanting an investigative-journalism perspective
- Events requiring a Netflix/BBC-grade host or moderator with a high-recognition public profile

Audience outcomes

- A grounded account of what resilience looks like after a decade inside a system most audiences only study
- A clearer view of how and why institutions make catastrophic errors, and what breaks that cycle
- A specific set of examples from Netflix's *Inside the World's Toughest Prisons* and BBC *Panorama* investigative work
- Reference points on institutional accountability that are usable in legal, corporate and public-sector contexts
- The benefit of a recognised Netflix and BBC name in the room for audience engagement and post-event conversation

Raphael Rowe's Videos

