

## **Austin's Piper Stege Nelson named one of BBC's 100 most inspiring, influential women for 2021**

*Piper Stege Nelson joins a who's who of women from around the world, including philanthropist Melinda French Gates, Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate, actress Rebel Wilson, activist Mahbouba Seraj, and designer Vera Wang.*

**Austin, Texas** – Austin resident **Piper Stege Nelson** was named to the **BBC 100 Women 2021** list. 2021's keyword is "reset," with the BBC honoring women who have contributed to "playing their part to reinvent our society, our culture, and our world."

The BBC revealed the names of these inspiring and influential women in December. Honorees include women from 32 countries: climate activists and grassroots leaders to international CEOs and global megastars.

Piper serves as Chief Public Strategies Officer at Austin-based **The SAFE Alliance**, a longstanding and respected human service agencies in Austin serving survivors of child abuse, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and domestic violence.

"It's an honor to be a part of an incredible community of feminist activists, whatever their daytime job," Piper said. "Admittedly, I'm suffering some imposter syndrome—but understand that this honor is really for all the brilliant people fighting for the rights of women and girls and *everyone* to get the support and services they deserve. I'm proud to be a part of that fight."

Her career includes leadership positions at Michelle Obama's Let Girls Learn Initiative; Annie's List, a political action committee dedicated to increasing the number and success of women in politics in Texas; publisher of *The Texas Observer*; the National Democratic Institute; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Piper is a Fulbright scholar and a graduate of Carleton College and the University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs.

"It may be my name on the BBC 100 Women list, but the credit goes to my SAFE colleagues, my friends and mentors, and sheroes, all standing up for women any way they can," Piper continued. "The last couple of years have been ridiculously hard on all of us, but particularly for every individual and family facing violence and abuse. I'm so proud that the important work of SAFE to serve survivors and to stop abuse for everyone is being amplified worldwide by the BBC."

**How were the 100 women chosen?**

Led by Claire Williams, editor of the BBC's 100 Women, and Valeria Perasso, lead producer of the initiative, the BBC's 100 Women team drew up a shortlist based on names they gathered and suggested by the BBC's network of World Service languages teams. The BBC was looking for candidates who had made the headlines or influenced important stories over the past 12 months, as well as those who have inspiring stories to tell. The BBC was also looking for women who have achieved something significant or influenced their societies in ways that wouldn't necessarily make the news. The pool of names was assessed against this year's theme—women who are hitting "reset," playing their part to reinvent our world after the global pandemic has forced so many to reassess the way we live.

The full BBC 100 Women List 2021 is available at [www.bbc.com/100women](http://www.bbc.com/100women).

### **About SAFE**

We strive to provide safety, stability, and healing for children, adults, and families who have experienced violence and abuse. SAFE provides shelter and housing, support services, and prevention programs to stop the cycle of violence. Learn more at [safeaustin.org](http://safeaustin.org).