

Glasgow Human Rights Network Roundtable

'Poverty is a Human Rights violation: perspectives and responses from Scotland'

17th October 2013, 5.30 – 9.00pm

Glasgow City Chambers

With civic hospitality provided by the Lord Provost of Glasgow and Glasgow City Council

October 17th is The United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. In light of the recent damning statement from the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing regarding the Human Rights violations resulting from the 'Bedroom tax' and welfare reform in the UK, the Glasgow Human Rights Network invites you to join us for a Roundtable Discussion highlighting Poverty as a Human Rights Violation in the UK and Scotland's response to this.

We start from the premise that poverty is a human rights violation and ask how Human Rights standards, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR) can be used to address this. We ask why the ICESCR has still to be implemented into domestic law and ask and how we can raise awareness of economic, social and cultural rights and ensure access to these human rights. We frame this wider debate in the context of the forthcoming Independence Referendum and consider what options there are for the realisation of economic, social and cultural human rights and for the eradication of the human rights violations of poverty in a future Scotland.

This event is **free and open to all** (but advance registration is required, please see details below) and we invite you to come along to participate in the discussion and bring your views, suggestions, or just your curiosity to find out more.

We are grateful to Glasgow City Council for providing Civic Hospitality for this event. Teas & coffees will be available from 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start. The roundtable will conclude at approx.8.00pm and will be followed by an informal reception to chat more with participants (until 9.00pm).

To register for the event:

Please go to [EVENTBRIGHT LINK] and sign up. Please also let us know if you wish tea/coffees at 5.30pm and/or reception at 8.00pm for catering purposes and to

minimise waste (tick box option on the form). Alternatively, if you have received this invitation through a community organisation or similar, then we are very happy for them to book on your behalf, if possible.'

The event will open with a formal Civic Welcome on behalf of Glasgow City Council.

Confirmed Speakers include:

Kait Laughlin, School of Social Sciences, University of the West of Scotland

Kait is a fourth year PhD researcher and associate lecturer in the School of Social Sciences at the University of the West of Scotland. Her current work investigates the potential for an anti-poverty Human Rights culture in Scotland - and why it matters. She is a co-founder and former chair of a grass-roots anti-poverty charity in Glasgow, and worked in the charitable and voluntary sector for over twenty years, where she was consulted on, and contributed to, a range of anti-poverty and wider social justice initiatives.

Kait is interested in the impact of poverty and inequality on both the individual and society, and has a degree in psychology and a Masters in research methods from the University of Strathclyde.

She intends to offer her doctoral research as a contribution to the pre and post-referendum debates on the kind of future Scotland we say we want - and how we may get there.

Tricia McConalogue, Bridging the Gap and former co-chair of The Poverty Truth Commission

Tricia McConalogue is Coordinator of Bridging the Gap in the Gorbals. Tricia previously worked for Glasgow Braendam Link, an organisation ensuring the voice of those people living in poverty is listened to. Tricia is passionate about social justice and believes in an equal society and this is reflected both in her professional and private life.

Tricia's background is in anti-poverty work and in the past she was part ATD Fourth World, an International organisation that takes a Human Rights approach to poverty. Tricia co-chaired the Poverty Truth Commission from 2009- 2011 and is still involved with this. For the last 12 years, Tricia has been part of a small group of people marking the United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The group gather around a commemorative stone in George Square in Glasgow and mark the day by celebrating the courage of people living in poverty.

Duncan Wilson, Scottish Human Rights Commission and Leadership Panel, Glasgow Anti-Poverty Strategy

Duncan is Head of Strategy and Legal at the Scottish Human Rights Commission with responsibility for research, policy, legal and strategic work. Previously Duncan was Research Coordinator to the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the right to education. He has also headed Amnesty International's global work on economic, social and cultural rights and held a leading role in the development of Amnesty's global campaign on poverty and human rights.

Duncan has advised the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights on issues related to poverty, austerity and international development. He has also been a part-time lecturer at the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex and has led ad hoc teaching and training in a range of universities, civil society and public bodies.

Duncan has a law degree from the University of Edinburgh, and a Masters in International Human Rights Law from Lund University in Sweden.