



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Festival of Politics 2023

15 June 2023

Reference: SPCB (2023) Paper 42

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this Paper is to update the SPCB on the planning and preparations for the 2023 Festival of Politics, in particular the partners, ticketing and programme.
2. At its meeting on 19 January 2023 the SPCB agreed this year's Festival of Politics would be in-person but building on the success of the two previous online Festivals would also include a selection of hybrid events. The SPCB also agreed that the Festival should be held over three days from Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 August.
3. As with previous Festivals, the SPCB agreed an overarching partnership with the Parliament's think-tank Scotland's Futures Forum. The SPCB also agreed that we should build upon both internal and external partnerships and for 2023 seek suggestions from committees and cross-party groups on possible panel sessions that will be programmed across the three days.

Issues and Options

Partnerships

4. As well as the over-arching partnership with Scotland's Futures Forum, this year also marks a new Festival-wide partnership with the Scottish Youth Film Foundation, a charity that aims to improve the life outcomes of young people in Scotland through film. A group of young filmmakers will be based at the Festival for the three-day duration where they will interview panellists and broadcast a daily round-up magazine programme live from the Scottish Parliament.

5. We are also pleased to confirm for the first time a partnership with the Edinburgh International Festival and have worked closely to programme a number of *In Conversation with ...* events and panel sessions commencing at the Festival of Politics and continuing over the three weeks of the Edinburgh International Festival. These talks and panel discussions will explore three main strands of the Edinburgh International Festival's overarching theme - *Where Do We Go From Here?* - community over chaos; hope in the face of adversity; and finally, a perspective that's not one's own. Given the theme and the three strands we believe these fit perfectly with the Festival of Politics' overall programme and this partnership will continue to grow the Festival's brand as part of the wider Edinburgh festivals.
6. Further individual partnerships with a range of Scottish universities; the David Hume Institute; the Scottish Council on Global Affairs; the Scottish Youth Parliament; the John Smith Centre; and the Coalition on Racial Equality and Rights have been all been secured or approached in order to maximise potential audience reach as indicated in the attached programme in **Annex A**.

Ticketing

7. The 2023 Festival of Politics will be held in-person with the occasional panellist joining online for geographical reasons. While in-person events will be ticketed the pricing will stay at 2019 levels. These are £8.00/£6.00 for the Debating Chamber events; and £6.00/£4.00 for all panel events. Each partner will be allocated 10 complimentary tickets to ensure that audiences who may be unable to pay for a ticket can still attend. Also, on the advice of the Parliament's BSL Officer, all BSL users will be allocated complimentary tickets to ensure there are no financial barriers to accessing the Festival.
8. The Festival will extend the SPCB's suggestion from 2022 and continue to offer a free tea, coffee, or cold refreshment as part of the ticket price for each Festival attendee to enjoy post-event considering the wider cost-of-living crisis.

Festival Café Bar

9. The Festival Café Bar programme will include visual art exhibitions inspired by two Festival panel events. The first is curated by the cross-party group on Migration whom we are partnering with on the *Navigating Migration* panel. The display of pictures and descriptions by migrants now based in Scotland explain the effects of adjusting to a new environment and the impact it has on mental health and well-being. The second exhibition has been inspired by the Festival panel *Activism – vote for me* and is curated in partnership with Glasgow Women's Library from their larger *Grit and Diamonds* exhibition. The exhibition is a collection of archive materials in relation to chapters of the book *Grit and Diamonds*

by Shirley Henderson and Alison Mackay, which focuses on women as active and important contributors to Glasgow's history in 1980-90.

10. As with previous years, the Café Bar will also host the Publication Engagement Services Team who will run their successful Festival pop-up shop selling book titles by Festival panellists and who will also take part in post-panel book signings. In addition, a free programme of entertainment including acoustic music, choirs, dance, robots, and spoken word is also planned in Festival Café Bar.

Festival Launch Reception

11. This year we are planning a launch event for the Festival of Politics hosted by one of the Presiding Officers on the evening of Tuesday 8 August. This event will provide an excellent opportunity for Members – there are many chairing sessions over the three days – to engage with Festival partners, panellists, festivalgoers and other guests and at the same time raise the profile of the Festival of Politics with them and a wider audience.

Public Engagement Strategy

12. The Festival of Politics strives to meet the Parliament's Public Engagement Strategy through engaging and partnering with a diverse range of organisations and audiences to create panel discussions and events such as the new partnership with the Scottish Youth Film Foundation. The Foundation will recruit a diverse group of young people aged 18 to 24 years who would not normally have an opportunity to make a film and then train them during July and August to film, edit and produce news reports as part of the three live programmes to be streamed over the duration of the Festival.
13. All our Festival sessions this year will be streamed *live*, and these will be free-to-watch. This should address some geographical and financial barriers to engage with the Festival and the Scottish Parliament. In addition to this we are also planning to upload a selection of the Festival programme to the Scottish Parliament's Festival of Politics' YouTube channel later in August which will give longevity to the sessions and allows people to engage with them at a time that suits them.

Programme

14. The draft programme for the 2023 Festival of Politics is attached at **Annex A**. The draft programme contains details of proposed Festival events that have been or are close to being confirmed. We have provided full panel copy for each session which will be edited for the online and printed programmes. The 2023 Festival will respond to contemporary political and social affairs including: workers' rights; activism; devolution; ethics in artificial intelligence; and the future of broadcasting.

15. Additionally, we are planning a number of *In Conversation with ...* events with well-known speakers and figures including the journalist, broadcaster and former politician Rt Hon Michael Portillo; and the world's premier percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie OBE. These will take place with the Deputy Presiding Officers as chairs in the Debating Chamber.
16. A further *In Conversation with ...* event will take place on Friday 25 August with Gustavo Dudamel as a close to the partnership with the Edinburgh International Festival. Dudamel is one of the foremost music conductors of today and is Music and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Music Director of the Opéra National de Paris and Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra. His ethos is very much about music bringing people together and is himself an alumnus of El Sistema. Given this connection with El Sistema we hope to work with the six Big Noise communities across Scotland to ensure as many of the young people will be able to attend this event and will look to programme one of them as part of a post-event reception in the Garden Lobby. By working with these communities we will be able to deliver against the Parliament's Public Engagement Strategy by breaking down barriers and engaging new audiences.
17. Following previous years' successful partnerships with cross-party groups and committees, this year's programme also reflects ten cross-party groups and one committee who responded to the Festival's open call to participate, with preference given to those cross-party groups who didn't take part in 2022. These include cross-party groups on Aviation; Bangladesh; Inflammatory Bowel Disease; International Development; Health Inequalities; LGBTI+ People; Migration; Music; Social Enterprises; and Volunteering. Through the Futures Forum, the Festival has also been working on a panel on the use of land in partnership with the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.
18. Members will chair all the cross-party group and committee-inspired panels, according to their membership of the respective cross-party group or committee. All other panels will be chaired by a mix of Members who have specific committee knowledge of a panel subject area; or a relevant director of partner organisation; or journalist.
19. As in previous Festivals, a range of panels will be selected for BSL translation by the BSL Facebook group in partnership with the Scottish Parliament's BSL Development Officer to increase accessibility.
20. Although the programme will develop over the next few weeks it is hoped that it will not change significantly before it is launched in late June. If there are any major amendments, we will discuss and agree these with the Clerk/Chief Executive and the Presiding Officer.

Communications activities

21. The Parliament Communications Office will co-ordinate and deliver a communications plan which will use a number of platforms and techniques to raise awareness of the event. This will include engaging web and digital content, social media, email marketing and paid for advertising. Our in-house graphic designer will co-ordinate the visuals for the event, including designing the look and feel for the Festival and the programme.
22. As the Festival is all about issues, our key strategy underpinning this will be to try and effectively reach those who are interested in the themes and topics we're discussing. We'll do this by working with Festival partners to ensure that they are effectively using their networks to spread the message about the event.
23. We also plan to get the Festival printed programme out into local communities. We plan to do this by having information and programmes available in local libraries. We also held an event in January called Peek into Parliament, which was about raising awareness of the Parliament in local community groups. We plan to build on the success of this event by using these groups to promote and encourage engagement with the Festival with an additional incentive to attend.

Publication Scheme

24. This paper and annex should not be published until the 2023 Festival of Politics programme is launched in late June.

Decision

25. The SPCB is asked to consider this Paper and agree the overall direction of the 2023 Festival of Politics, its partnerships and the Festival Café Bar; and that ticketing stays at 2019 prices with free refreshments post-event.

Events and Exhibitions Team
June 2023

Festival of Politics 2023 – Draft Programme

Wednesday 9 August

In Conversation with Dame Evelyn Glennie OBE

In partnership with Edinburgh International Festival

11.00am – 12.30pm

The Debating Chamber

£8.00/£6.00

Join the world's premier solo percussionist **Dame Evelyn Glennie** in conversation with the **Deputy Presiding Officer Liam McArthur MSP** to discuss her career and her thoughts on this year's Edinburgh International Festival's theme - Where Do We Go From Here? Her solo recordings exceed forty CDs, she is a double Grammy award-winner and BAFTA nominee who composes for film, theatre and television. Awarded an OBE and with over 100 international awards she is the curator of The Evelyn Glennie Collection. Her charity The Evelyn Glennie Foundation embodies her life-long mission to teach the world to listen and help to create a society where communication and social cohesion are improved by the act of listening.

Is the West in Decline?

In partnership with the Scottish Council on Global Affairs

11.30am – 1.00pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

Current international order has been creaking for the last decade and now appears under real stress. With the rise of populism in the West, India's rise as a global powerhouse in the world of technological advances; a more assertive China and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it's fair to say the western allies may be united but they're also at their least influential. So, who is ready to take on the mantle as global power; and what are the geo-political repercussions for the west when we all face the global challenges of climate, poverty and health?

Chair: TBC

Panellists:

- Professor Toni Haastrup, Senior Lecturer in International Relations, University of Stirling
- Professor Peter Jackson, Scottish Council on Global Affairs, University of Glasgow
- Dr Mateja Peter, Co-director of the Centre for Global Law and Governance, University of St Andrews

Urgency of Climate Change & Justice in vulnerable low-lying countries ahead of COP28

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Bangladesh

11.45am – 1.15pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

The plea of the world's low-lying nations can no longer be ignored. The urgency is present, but efforts are slow. Leaders in the global south urge that real commitment is needed to deliver climate justice to the vulnerable nations that produce small amounts of carbon emissions yet are impacted the most. With Scotland being the first nation to pledge loss and damage funds, the need for reparations and similar scheme needs is becoming ever more urgent. Where is the will to act; and what needs to happen this year?

Chair: Foysol Choudhury MSP, Convener, Cross-Party Group on Bangladesh

Panellists:

- Dr Elizabeth Cripps, Senior Lecturer in School of Politics, University of Edinburgh, author of *What Climate Justice Means and Why We Should Care*
- Professor Saleemul Huq OBE, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change & Development (ICCCAD) ONLINE
- Kirstie Shirra, Stop Climate Chaos
- Jelina Rahman, Rahman Solicitors, Glasgow

How to Disagree Agreeably

In partnership with John Smith Centre

1.45pm – 3.15pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

In an age where conflict culture and manufactured dissent seems to be actively encouraged in politics and every other sphere of society, the art of debating, listening and learning from the other side has been over-shadowed by rancour and adamant polarisation. So, how do we revive the art of critical thinking, recognise the value of complexity and the 'grey area'; and goal of both parties making a discovery, over being right?

Chair: Liam McArthur MSP, Deputy Presiding Officer

Panellists:

- Peter McColl, Senior Associate, The Consultation Institute
- Sheila Webster, President, Law Society of Scotland
- Kezia Dugdale, Centre Director at the John Smith Centre and Professor of Practice in Public Service, University of Glasgow

Volunteers and the State

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Volunteering

2.00pm – 3.30pm

The Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

Volunteers contribute an estimated £5.5 billion to the Scottish economy each year with over 2 million people giving their time to the NHS; youth groups; and as board members hundreds of charities. So, are volunteers now vital for the delivery of public services in Scotland? Or is there a concern in the current financial climate that volunteers are contributing to the erosion of the state by enabling cuts to services and undercutting paid jobs?

Chair: Jeremy Balfour MSP, Co-convener, Cross-party group on Volunteering

Panellists:

- Alan Stevenson, CEO of Volunteer Scotland
- Sara Redmond, The Health and Social Care Alliance, Scotland
- Alan Sherry, Chair, CLD Standards Council

Cheap Food and Mental Health

In partnership with Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen

4.00pm – 5.30pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs) now account for over 50% of our diets. Cheap, tasty, salty, oily and sugary with zero nutrients and often delivered to your front-door, there is increasing evidence that the food we are eating is fuelling a mental health crisis. Poor nutrition impacts on how we feel, our decision-making and aggressive impulses – yet it is only the ‘mind’ that is focussed on when mental health is raised and not the food we fuel on. Exactly how do UPFs affect our brain and mood? How is this impacting as a social injustice on the poorest and vulnerable in society? What are the policymakers and manufacturers doing to address this?

Chair: Oliver Mundell MSP, Co-convener, Cross-Party Group on Mental Health

Panellists:

- Kimberley Wilson, author of *Unprocessed: how the food we eat is fuelling the mental health crisis*
- Professor Paul Haggarty, Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen
- Alana McDonald, Senior Public Health Nutrition Advisor, Food Standards Scotland
- Dr Lindsey MacDonald, CEO, Magic Breakfast

Twenty-five years of devolution in the UK

In partnership with David Hume Institute

6.00pm – 7.30pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

The devolution referendum of 1997 resulted in 74% of Scots voting for a Scottish Parliament. Wales, Northern Ireland and London all gained varying devolved powers from central UK government. What have the gains and losses been; and what does the next 25 years herald for each nation if devolution really is a process and not a single act?

Chair: Susan Murray, David Hume Institute

Panellists:

- Philip Rycroft, Bennet Institute for Public Policy, University of Cambridge
- Professor Nicola McEwen, Professor of Public Policy, University of Glasgow
- Professor Katy Hayward, Professor of Political Sociology, Queen's University, Belfast

WoC in politics and challenging racism

In partnership with the Coalition on Racial Equality and Rights

6.15pm – 7.45pm

Committee Room

What has inspired women of colour to enter politics; and/or be activists and how has this intersected with their experiences as BME women? Join the panel to discuss the routes into the conventional political system and activism; whether the Black Lives Matter movement played a part in inspiring activism; and how can effective change be made both inside and outside the political system.

Chair: Kimberley Wong, Public Affairs and Policy Officer, CRER

Panellists:

- Kaukab Stewart MSP
- *Councillor (TBC)*
- *Activist (TBC)*

Thursday 10 August

Activism - vote for me

In partnership with Scottish Youth Parliament

10.45am – 12.15pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

While University of Cambridge data shows that faith in democratic politics is lowest among 18 – 34-year-olds right across the world, this same cohort are at the forefront of a power shift to increased grassroots activism. The Gen Zer's are an empowered, mobilised and tech-savvy generation who can switch from demonstrations to digital campaigning on issues like climate change; gender and race equality; and abortion safe zones. How effective is this form of activism in rendering societal change and what does it mean for democratic politics if the same generation is disillusioned by conventional party politics?

Chair: Jackson Carlaw MSP, Convener, Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

Panellists:

- Erin Waldie, Young Women Lead Dundee graduate
- Dr Jan Eichhorn, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, University of Edinburgh
- Mollie McGoran MSYP, Chair, Scottish Youth Parliament

The Future of Broadcasting

In partnership with University of Glasgow

11.00am – 12.30pm

The Holyrood Room

With BBC celebrating 100 years in Scotland, it's a reminder that television viewing used to involve an entire nation watching the same programme at the same time - shared emotions and water-cooler conversations reinforcing a feeling of commonality. Then the streaming giants moved in with a diversity of programming and pay models. So, what are the pros and cons of our menu of tv viewing in terms of our cultural identities and media industry? What are the challenges for public service broadcasters, commercial streaming companies, and for us the audience? Who will provide trusted news programmes in an era of disinformation; do quotas still matter?

Chair: Clare Adamson MSP, Convener, Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Panellists:

- Luke McCullough, BBC Scotland, Head of Corporate Affairs and Public Policy
- Linda Grimes Douglas, Head of News and Current Affairs, STV

- Stewart Kyasimire, film director and founder of *createanything* production company
- Professor Philip Schlesinger, Professor in Cultural theory, University of Glasgow

In Conversation with Michael Portillo

1.00pm – 2.30pm
 Debating Chamber
 £8.00/£6.00

Rt Hon Michael Portillo is a former Conservative Cabinet Minister turned journalist and broadcaster whose notable television series; *Portillo's Great Railway Journeys* has taken him across the globe. Similarly, his documentaries, newspaper columns and broadcasting - including the BBC One show *This Week* and Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* - have explored culture, ethics and politics across the decades. He now presents a Sunday morning news show titled *Portillo* for GB News. Join the **Deputy Presiding Officer Annabelle Ewing MSP** in conversation with Michael to discuss a life in politics and broadcasting and his strong family connections to Fife.

Workers' Rights – who cares?

1.15pm – 2.45pm
 Committee Room
 £6.00/£4.00

Trade unions are across the news with strike action across all sectors seeking better wages, pensions and conditions. With 6.5 million UK members – half 1970s levels – how relevant are trade unions to today's workforce who are more likely to be self-employed or work in the private sector or part of a globalized gig-economy? If not unions, then who is protecting workers' rights, and does a younger workforce really care?

Chair: Claire Baker MSP, Convener, Economy and Fair Work Committee

Panellists:

- Catherine McWilliam, Nations Director, Institute of Directors
- Rafael Peels, International Labour Organization ONLINE
- Roz Foyer, STUC
- Professor Patricia Findlay, Co-chair Fair Work Convention

Talking to boys and men about gender-based violence

In partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University
 3.00pm – 4.30pm
 The Holyrood Room
 £6.00/£4.00

Declared by the United Nations as an 'epidemic' across the world. How do we talk to boys and men in ways that will engage them and stop gender-based violence? What is being done legally; in schools; with public education campaigns; and perpetrators to understand, challenge and change male attitudes and behaviour on harassment, assault and abuse?

Chair: James Dornan MSP, Cross-Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children

Panellists:

- Sandy Brindley, Chief Executive, Rape Crisis Scotland
- Adam Miller @Oldfirmfacts1 and Don't Be That Guy
- Graham Goulden, Cultivating Minds UK
- Professor Nancy Lombard, Glasgow Caledonian University

Thirty-Five years since Section 28

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group LGBTI+ People

3.15pm – 4.45pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

In 2000, Scotland was the first country in the UK to repeal the Section 28 legislation introduced as part of the Local Government Act in 1988 that prohibited the promotion of homosexuality in schools. For 12 years in Scotland schools, libraries and other public services weren't allowed to acknowledge LGBT+ people. What was the impact on teachers and pupils at the time; and what has the legacy been on the lives of LGBT+ teachers and wider society when it comes to changing attitudes?

Chair: Jamie Greene MSP, Co-convener, Cross-Party Group on LGBTI+ People

Panellists:

- Tim Hopkins, Director at Equality Network
- Jim Whannel, former headteacher who worked through Section 28
- Rhona Hamilton, Programme Director, Time for Inclusive Education

The Future of Scotland's Arts and Culture – Where do we go from here?

In partnership with Edinburgh International Festival

5.00pm – 6.30pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

As highlighted by the Scottish Parliament's Culture Committee, the significant budgetary challenges faced by the culture sector have become much more acute as a "perfect storm" of economic factors now threatens Scotland's art and culture scene. With cinemas, a jazz club and music ensemble closed and a scaled-back national dance centre and Edinburgh film festival, it's no wonder arts leaders are warning that 1:4 arts organisations could go to the wall. What are the next steps if future generations of performers and audiences are to thrive and what's the most sustainable arts and culture funding model to ensure longevity of an industry that is world renowned?

Chair: Clare Adamson MSP, Convener, Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Panellists:

- Jean Cameron, Chair, Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow
- Moira Jeffrey, Director, Scottish Contemporary Art Network
- Fran Hegyi, Edinburgh International Festival Executive Director

Radical Uses for Scotland's Land

In partnership with the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

5.30pm – 7.00pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

We use our land to do many things: to provide food, to sustain communities and businesses and, increasingly, to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies. How can we strike the right balance between those uses? What can we learn from international models of ownership, subsidy and use? And what could and should Scotland's land look like to help us create fair and sustainable communities throughout the country?

Chair: Finlay Carson MSP, Convener of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Panellists:

- Andrew Thin, chair of the Scottish Land Commission
- *Representative from Centre for Mountain Studies (TBC)*
- Steven Young, Director of Policy at Scottish Land and Estates

Friday 11 August

Navigating Migration

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Migration

11.00am – 12.30pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

For people arriving as migrants and asylum seekers the requirement to navigate the legalities of employment, education, housing, and detention are both monumental and vital to survival and settlement in the UK. Join the panel to discuss the realities of migrants and asylum seekers as they negotiate their rights to work, study, and live in the country.

Chair: Paul Sweeney MSP, Convener, Cross-Party Group on Migration

Panellists:

- Graham O'Neill, Policy Manager, Scottish Refugee Council
- Karin Godwin, Investigative Journalist
- Pinar Aksu, Human Right and Advocacy Coordinator Maryhill Integration Network
- Andy Sirel, Legal Director and partner, JustRight Scotland

It's the economy, stupid

in partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Social Enterprises

11.15am – 12.45pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

Scotland faces significant economic challenges in the coming decade: a climate and ecological emergency, rising inequality and a cost-of-living crisis. As the country emerges from the COVID pandemic, new ideas of how our economy should work are taking hold: inclusive growth, sustainable development and a circular economy, among them. These ideas all point to a different economic model, but what do they mean in practice? Are the right people and organisations involved? And can local communities be inspired and motivated to take part?

Chair: *MSP, Cross-Party Group on Social Enterprises (TBC)*

Panellists:

- Emma Congreve, Fraser of Allander Institute, University of Strathclyde
- *Representative from Social Enterprise Scotland (TBC)*
- Jimmy Paul, Director, Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland
- *TBC, Social Entrepreneur*

The Language of Poo. Can words disengage communities?

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the Cross-Party Group on Health Inequalities

1.15pm – 2.45pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

A panel session on how our choice of language could create barriers for people to understand their health and access health services and consequently exacerbate health inequities. Is current Public Health messaging 'turning off' some of our communities? Is the current process for developing public health messaging fit for purpose? How can we create health messages to reduce health inequalities?

Chair: Pauline McNeill MSP, Convener, Cross-Party Group on Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Panellists:

- Burcu Borysik, Head of Policy and Campaigns, Crohn's & Colitis UK

- Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director of the Scottish Government
- Dr Josephine Adekola, Lecturer in Strategy Communication/ Science and Technology Policy, University of Glasgow ONLINE

Scotland's poverty problem

In partnership with Scotland's Futures Forum

1.30pm – 3.00pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

Nearly a quarter of children in Scotland are growing up in poverty. Two thirds of them are in a working household. With poverty affecting children's mental, physical and emotional health, we are storing up long-term problems for our future. All political parties are committed to tackling the issue, so why has more progress not been made? Does stigma hold back the debate? And how can we build a healthier and fairer society for all young people in Scotland?

Chair: *MSP, Cross-Party Group on Poverty (TBC)*

Panellists:

- Chris Birt, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Professor Morag Treanor, Heriot-Watt University
- Satwat Rehman, One Parent Family Scotland / Just Transition Commission

Scotland – a good global citizen?

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on International Development

3.30pm – 5.00pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

How does Scotland position itself in relation to the rest of the world at a time of huge political and economic upheaval? Global citizenship highlights the interconnected and interdependent nature of society in thinking locally, nationally and globally. On a global stage, what are we doing post-COP on climate reparations; ethical consumerism; human rights; mediation and international development? Join the panel on their assessment of Scotland's role as a global citizen

Chair: Sarah Boyack MSP, Convener, Cross-Party Group on International Development

Panellists:

- Tabitha Nyakiri, Board member Scottish Fair-Trade Forum
- Professor Peter Jackson, Executive Director of the Scottish Council on Global Affairs
- Mya Chemonges-Murzynowska, Co-founder African, Caribbean, Asian and Mixed Heritage Association

Where are the ethics in AI?

4.00pm – 5.30pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

Humanity is on the brink of the most significant technological revolution thanks to advances in Artificial Intelligence. To supporters, AI is a tool for good with capacity to combat climate crisis; improve security, social care and prosperity, and even do the heavy lifting on boring human tasks. However, for detractors, AI is a tool that enables dangerous deep fakes; can be empowered by authoritarian regimes; and is as biased as the humans that programme it. So how and who will control the new AI future and where do ethics fit into all of this?

Chair: TBC

Panellists:

- Brian Hills, The Data Lab
- Dr Georgios Leontidis, Director of Interdisciplinary Centre for Data and AI, University of Aberdeen
- Dr Atoosa Kasirzadeh, Chancellor's Fellow, Centre for Technomoral Futures, University of Edinburgh

Fly shaming or a force for good?

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Aviation

5.45pm – 7.15pm

Committee Room

£6.00/£4.00

A panel discussion around the importance of travel and tourism to the Scottish economy explaining that apart from the economic and social benefits that flying is not as big a culprit in its level of emissions as is perceived and highlighting the drive to reaching net zero carbon target by 2045. Travel is always a subject that creates a great deal of media frenzy and interest for the general public. It is often seen as a major influence on emissions and 'Fly shaming' exists. This is a chance to discover the benefits and what is being achieved in Scotland.

Chair: Graham Simpson MSP, Co-Convener, Cross-Party Group on Aviation

Panellists:

- *Representative from Airlines UK (TBC)*
- *Representative from Flight Free UK (TBC)*
- *Representative from Sniffer (TBC)*
- *Representative from Scottish Chamber of Commerce (TBC)*

Scotland's Music Venues

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Music

6.00pm – 7.30pm

The Holyrood Room

£6.00/£4.00

Despite Scotland's worldwide reputation as a music nation, our grassroots music venues are under extraordinary financial pressures with many facing closure. Not only is this a blow to the Scottish music industry, but it also hits communities hard, reducing access to culture and limiting creative opportunities. How can politicians and the music industry work together to keep these venues open and ensure that Scotland continues to produce world beating musicians and songwriters for decades to come?

Chair: Michelle Thomson MSP, Convener, Cross-Party Group on Music

Panellists:

- Beverley Whitrick, COO Music Venue Trust
- *Representative from Council licensing (TBC)*
- *Festivals/promoters (TBC)*
- Hamish Hawk, singer songwriter

Friday 25 August

In Conversation with Gustavo Dudamel

In partnership with Edinburgh International Festival

11.00am – 12.30pm

Debating Chamber

£8.00/£6.00

Join **Gustavo Dudamel**, one of the world's foremost music conductors, as Music and Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Music Director of the Opéra National de Paris and Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, as he discusses his career and his belief in the ethos that music brings people together. As an alumnus of El Sistema, and a vocal advocate for opportunity in music, he will address the key question posed by the Edinburgh International Festival this year, *Where Do We Go From Here?*