



Thu 11  
— Sat 13  
August



**FESTIVAL**

**OF POLITICS**

**2022**

**PROGRAMME**



**BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT  
[FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://festivalofpolitics.scot)**



Scotland's Futures Forum  
Fòram Alba air Thoiseach



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

I am delighted that we are back in-person at Holyrood for this our 18th Festival of Politics. We present a programme of free and paid-for events that aim to inspire and engage people across a range of topics, from end-of-life choices to the cost of living crisis, the Festival offers a safe and informed space to discuss and deliberate.

Whether it's the spirited debate or the free programme of live music and exhibitions in the Festival Café Bar, you are assured of a warm welcome at your Scottish Parliament.

**Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP**  
Presiding Officer



**PRESIDING OFFICER'S**  
**WELCOME**  
**FÀILTE BHON OIFIGEAR RIAGHLAIDH**

Tha mi cho toilichte gu bheil sinn air ais air an làraich aig Taigh an Ròid airson seo an 18mh Fèis Phoilitigs againn. Tha sinn a' nochdadh prògram de thachartasan an-asgaidh agus ri pàigheadh air an son aig a bheil e mar amas daoine a bhrosnachadh is a thoirt a-steach thairis air caochladh chuspairean bho roghainnean deireadh beatha gu èiginn cosgais bith-beò, tha an Fhèis a' tabhann

àite a tha sàbhailte is fiosraichte airson deasbaireachd, Eadar gur h-e deasbad beothail no prògram saor a' chiùil bheò is nan taisbeanaidhean ann an Cafaidd-bàr na Fèise a bhios ann, is cinnteach gum faigh thu fàilte is furan aig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba agad.

**Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP**  
Oifigear Riaghlaidh



## WHAT'S ON

### THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER

|                                                            |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| End of life choices <b>BSL</b>                             | 10:30am - 12noon |
| A sporting chance                                          | 10:30am - 12noon |
| Prostitution - the buyers and sellers                      | 12:30pm - 2:00pm |
| Whose town is it anyway?! <b>ONLINE</b>                    | 12:30pm - 1:30pm |
| WASPI women                                                | 2:00pm - 3:30pm  |
| Information and disinformation                             | 3:00pm - 4:30pm  |
| Disability and the future of work <b>ONLINE</b> <b>BSL</b> | 3:00pm - 4:00pm  |
| Solving the global cost of living crisis                   | 5:00pm - 6:30pm  |
| In conversation with Professor A.C. Grayling               | 6:00pm - 7:30pm  |

### FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

|                                                                           |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Twenty-first century migration and asylum policies                        | 10:30am - 12noon |
| The climate crisis hasn't gone away <b>ONLINE</b>                         | 12:00pm - 1:15pm |
| Are the strongmen of politics killing democracy?                          | 12:30pm - 2:00pm |
| Cost of living crisis - food and fuel as legal rights?                    | 2:15pm - 3:45pm  |
| Elect her <b>BSL</b>                                                      | 2:30pm - 4:00pm  |
| Scotland, racism and the legacy of transatlantic slavery trade <b>BSL</b> | 4:15pm - 5:30pm  |
| In conversation with John Barnes                                          | 6:00pm - 7:30pm  |

### SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER

|                                                        |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| LGBTI+ Elder care <b>BSL</b>                           | 10:30am - 12noon |
| NTS rehearsed reading of Holding/Holding On <b>BSL</b> | 1:00pm - 2:00pm  |
| Care, love and understanding                           | 2:15pm - 3:30pm  |
| Data vultures destroying democracy                     | 2:30pm - 4:00pm  |
| Do you trust politicians?                              | 4:00pm - 5:30pm  |
| The state of the UK union                              | 6:00pm - 7:30pm  |



# THURSDAY 11 AUGUST

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT  
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BSL 

## End of life choices - personal is political

Supported by Cross-Party Group  
on End of Life Choices  
10:30am - 12noon / £6.00 / £4.00

A YouGov poll in 2021 reported that three-quarters of British people supported doctor-assisted suicide for patients suffering from a terminal illness. Join the panel to discuss end-of-life choices, ethics, morals and the politics of social change.



## A sporting chance - open schools to community access

Supported by Cross-Party Group on Sport  
10:30am - 12noon / £6.00 / £4.00

Sport is one of the keys to life-long health, happiness and mental well-being. So, what is stopping Scottish communities from accessing local, inclusive and affordable facilities on their doorstep?



## Prostitution - the buyers and sellers

Supported by Cross-Party Group  
on Commercial Sexual Exploitation  
12:30pm - 2:00pm / £6.00 / £4.00

Join a panel discussion and part-dramatized reading to discuss the reality of commercial sexual exploitation and the role of online pimping websites, with front-line service providers and prostitution survivors.



## WASPI Women - Righting a wrong

Supported by Cross-Party Group on WASPI  
2:00pm - 3:30pm / £6.00 / £4.00

What is the state of play with campaigning group Women Against State Pension Injustice (WASPI)? And how do we ensure millions of women in the future do not retire with a fraction of men's pensionable savings?



ONLINE

## Whose town is it anyway?!

Supported by Cross-Party Group  
on Towns and Town Centres  
12:30pm - 1:30pm / FREE

Who holds the power in town centres - is it the developer, the chain stores, or the investors? Join the debate on how we build in climate, social inclusion and health and well-being to every town centre in Scotland.



## Information and disinformation: controlling the narrative as a tactic of war - and peace

Supported by Cross-Party Group on Tibet  
and Scotland's Futures Forum  
3:00pm - 4:30pm / £6.00 / £4.00

It is often said that the first casualty in war is truth. This event will consider the use of information and disinformation in armed conflict, as well as the role of citizen journalism and digital communication in our world today.



ONLINE BSL

## Disability and the future of work

Supported by the Social Justice and Social Security Committee  
3:00pm - 4:00pm / FREE

What is the working future for Scotland's disabled people? And what can Scotland do to harness the technological trends shaping our future working lives and use them to support more disabled people into work?



## Solving the global cost of living crisis: Is a wellbeing economy part of the answer?

Supported by the Cross-Party Groups on the Wellbeing Economy; and International Development  
5:00pm - 6:30pm / £6.00/£4.00

The global cost of living crisis is fuelling growing calls for a fairer economic model. How can Scotland live up to its global responsibility and build an economy that is fair to both those in Scotland and people elsewhere?



FEATURE EVENT

## In conversation with Professor A.C. Grayling

In partnership with Scotland's Futures Forum  
6:00pm - 7:30pm / £8.00 / £6.00

Join Professor A.C. Grayling CBE, one of the UK's most prolific philosophers and authors to discuss his timely book, *For the Good of the World: Is Global Agreement on Global Challenges Possible?* as Professor Grayling examines the three most urgent challenges facing the world today: climate change, technology and justice. As Master of the New College of the Humanities, and an author of over 30 books, he dissects both the threats and the inspiring solutions. Can human beings collectively agree on a set of values to save the planet from extinction? There will be a book signing immediately after this event in the Festival Café Bar.



FRIDAY 12 AUGUST

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT  
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## 21st century migration and asylum policies

10:30am - 12noon / £6.00 / £4.00

With the Ukrainian conflict resulting in mass migration, is it time to challenge polarised rhetoric on migration and asylum and look at the economic benefits of migration to those nations facing a demographic time-bomb on working generations?



## Are the strongmen of politics killing democracy?

12:30pm - 2:00pm / £6.00/£4.00

Are we witnessing the return of strongman politics, where democratically elected leaders from around the globe became ever more authoritarian under a veneer of liberal democracy? How do we keep authoritarians in check and how worried should democracy be?



ONLINE

## The climate crisis hasn't gone away

12noon - 1:15pm / FREE

Half the world's population suffer water shortage at any time during the year and one in three face deadly heat stress. Where is the action on pledges made in Glasgow and what will COP27 in Egypt achieve later this year?



## Cost of living crisis - food and fuel as legal human rights?

In partnership with the University of Aberdeen  
2:15pm - 3:45pm / £6.00/£4.00

Increasing numbers of pressure groups believe the right to nutritious food and ability to heat our homes should also be legally enforceable human rights. What are the tools available to governments to make such a policy work? And are they realistic?



BSL

## Elect her

In partnership with Elect Her  
2:30pm - 4:00pm / £6.00/£4.00

While a storm of accusations of sexual impropriety, bullying and misogyny circles over politicians, and with politicians like Scotland's First Minister outlining the horrific online abuse targeted at female politicians, it's no surprise that many women decline to join the gladiatorial race for political office and goal of achieving 51% representation the UK. So, what makes a woman step up to become a political agent for change? And what kind of support, inspiration and motivation can they expect from their local community to national political platforms? Join the **Presiding Officer** and speakers to discuss the challenges and the solutions.



BSL

## Scotland, racism and the legacy of a transatlantic slavery trade

In partnership with Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights and Scotland's International Development Alliance  
4:15pm - 5:30pm / £6.00/£4.00

Join the panel discussion on the legacy of Scotland's role in the transatlantic slavery trade. What impact does this historical injustice have on the racism in Scotland, and what is the role of reparative justice?

## FEATURE EVENT

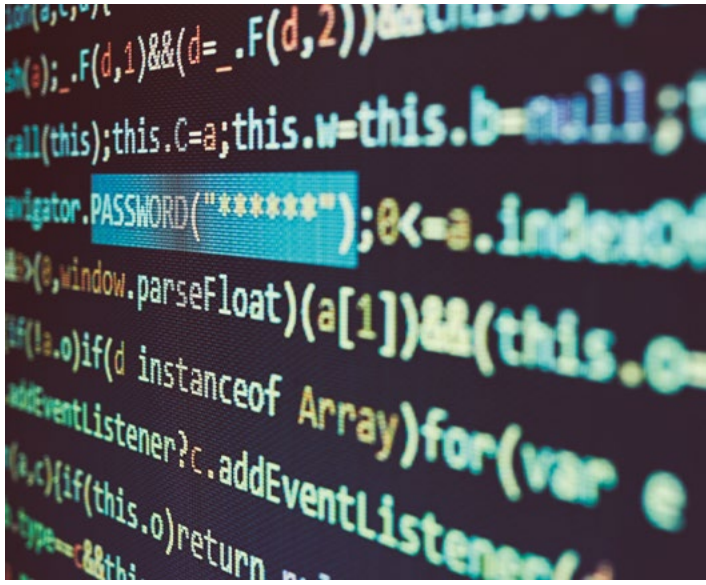
### In Conversation with John Barnes

In partnership with the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights  
6:00pm - 7:30pm / £8.00/£6.00

Join England football legend and former Celtic FC manager, **John Barnes in conversation** to discuss his eloquent and thought-provoking book, *The Uncomfortable Truth About Racism*. Drawing on his personal playing experiences as well as historical and intellectual arguments on slavery and colonialism, Barnes provides the structure for the uncomfortable conversations he believes must take place if society is to address the pervasive racism that endures in contemporary UK society.

There will be a book signing immediately after this event in the Festival Café Bar





# SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT  
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## LGBTI+ Elder Care

In partnership with the  
National Theatre of Scotland  
10:30am - 12noon / £6.00 /£4.00

Many elderly LGBTI+ people fear discrimination and a return of having to hide their true self from more conservative peers when they move into shared retiral or caring living space. Is the care profession offering a safe and respectful environment for all sexualities?

This panel is linked to the Portraits of a Generation exhibition in the Festival Café Bar

BSL



FEATURE EVENT BSL

## National Theatre of Scotland rehearsed reading of Holding/Holding On

In partnership with the  
National Theatre of Scotland  
1:00pm - 2:00pm  
£14.00/£12.00\*/£12.00/£10.00

\*limited ticket offer for rehearsed reading and the post-panel debate

Join this rehearsed reading scripted by Nicola McCartney in collaboration with care experienced people and those within the care system. A powerful work where care, class and poverty meet. It examines what care really means in contemporary Scotland and asks: what if instead of ever more complicated systems we can increase support, compassion and love? Directed by Claire Lamont and performed by Maureen Carr, Daniel Cahill and Callum Cuthbertson, with more to be announced

## Care, love and understanding?

In partnership with the  
National Theatre of Scotland  
2:15pm - 3:30pm  
£14.00/£12.00\*/£6.00/£4.00

\*limited ticket offer for rehearsed reading and the post-panel debate

Join the post-performance discussion for National Theatre of Scotland's rehearsed reading of Holding/Holding On, that explores the way society treats and views young people and adults in the Scottish care system. What roles do class and poverty play in the care system? Where do love, support and compassion come on the priority list, and where are the lines drawn between childcare and child protection for the care staff trying to get it right for everyone?



### Data vultures destroying democracy

In partnership with Scotland's Futures Forum  
2:30pm - 4:00pm / £6.00/£4.00

Our phones and laptops harvest information on everything from our habits to our medical issues. Who is regulating this mass surveillance? And how can we protect our privacy and democracy from a trend that is undermining equality for all?



### Do you trust politicians?

In partnership with the John Smith Centre,  
University of Glasgow  
4:00pm - 5:30pm / £6.00/£4.00

Trust in politicians is a cornerstone of a functioning democracy, and without it, we are left with weaker public services and widening inequalities. With levels of trust continuing to decline, what are the solutions for building a healthier democracy?



### The state of the UK union

6:00pm - 7:30pm / £6.00/£4.00

Given proposals for a Scottish independence referendum, the Brexit outcome, and the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic by each UK country, the pressure on the devolution settlement has arguably never been greater. What is the state of the UK union, and would further devolution proposals help the union modify and survive?



### CAFE BAR

Join us in the lively FREE Festival Café Bar for a programme of live music, choirs and exhibitions as part of this year's programme of free entertainment. Please see the Festival of Politics website for the full line-up.

# HALF

# PRICE

## TICKET OFFER

Buy one full-price ticket, receive the rest of your tickets for events on the **same day** for half-price! Exclusions apply.

The following events are excluded from the half price ticket offer:

- In conversation with Professor A.C. Grayling
- In conversation with John Barnes
- National Theatre of Scotland rehearsed reading of Holding/Holding On
- Care, love and understanding?

## EXHIBITIONS



### Cubes of Perpetual Light in the Members Garden

The Cubes of Perpetual Light in partnership with Dandelion, is an installation centred on sustainability and the concept of sow, grow and share as applied to music, community, food, ideas and knowledge. The Cubes combine miniature vertical farms with LED lighting and specially commissioned music, to encourage plant growth.



Artist's impression of the installation at the Parliament



### Portraits of a LGBTI+ Generation

Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation showcases 10 portraits and videos featuring members of the National Theatre of Scotland's LGBTI+ Social Dance Club. With photographs by Tiu Makkonen, the exhibition gives a sense of the varied, rich and remarkable lives of many LGBTI+ elders living across Scotland.



## TICKETING INFORMATION

All tickets can be booked online at [www.festivalofpolitics.scot](http://www.festivalofpolitics.scot) and will be available to buy up to two hours before each event. A limited number of tickets can be booked in person on the day at the Ticket Desk in the Festival Café Bar. Arrival at least 30 minutes prior to the event starting is advised. No phone bookings can be made.

### Other information

Information is correct at time of going to print but please check the online programme in advance of attending at [www.festivalofpolitics.scot](http://www.festivalofpolitics.scot). We reserve the right to change or cancel any event. We cannot offer refunds or exchanges unless an event is cancelled.

### Pricing

Concessions are available to children aged 5 - 16, Young Scot card holders, people aged 60 and over, students, unemployed people and disabled people. Access to the Festival Café Bar and World Press Photo are FREE.

### Contact us

Visitor Services number  
0800 092 7500 / 0131 348 5000  
[visit@parliament.scot/](mailto:visit@parliament.scot/)  
or [festivalofpolitics.scot](http://festivalofpolitics.scot)

### Privacy

Our privacy and data sharing policy can be found at [parliament.scot/privacy](http://parliament.scot/privacy)

## FESTIVAL PARTNERS



Scotland's Futures Forum  
Fòram Alba air Thoisreach



CRER  
coalition for racial  
equality and rights



Scotland's International  
Development Alliance



JOHN SMITH CENTRE  
PROMOTING TRUST IN PUBLIC SERVICE



UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN



350th Anniversary  
of the Public Register of  
All Arms and Bearings  
in Scotland 1672-2022



**WORLD PRESS PHOTO**

# EXHIBITION 2022

28 July  
– 27 August  
The Scottish  
Parliament

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