

‘Give Prostitution the Red Light ?’

**A Question Time-style debate
on prostitution in Scotland –
reform, regulate or reject ?**

**Thursday 24th September 2009,
Scottish Youth Theatre, Glasgow**

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A Question Time-style debate on prostitution in Scotland – reform, regulate or reject ?

- 6.15pm: **Theatre Foyer** :Canapés and drinks
- 7.00pm: **Theatre** : Welcome from Chairperson - Alex Bell, journalist and broadcaster
- 7.05pm: Introduction from Morag Alexander, Scotland Commissioner, Equality and Human Rights Commission
- 7.10pm: Introductory Statements from the Panellists
- 7.30pm: Question Time Style Debate
- 8.55pm: Closing Remarks - Chairperson, Alex Bell
- 9.00pm: **Main Foyer**: Drinks Reception

Scottish Debates Series

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission is working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society.

To this end we are facilitating a series of debates in Scotland. These will look at some of the big issues that arise in the changing social, political, cultural and legislative context in which we live. The Commission is committed to bringing people together for what can often be difficult yet important and timely discussions.



'We believe that it is debate, discussion and the respectful sharing of opinions that will help us shape the kind of Scotland we all want to live in'

Morag Alexander OBE, Scotland Commissioner
Equality and Human Rights Commission

Chairperson Biography

Alex Bell was a BBC Trainee and then a producer, reporter and presenter for the BBC. He has also worked for The Observer, The Herald and the Irish Times. He was also speech writer and head of policy to Alex Salmond and the Scottish National Party.

Margo MacDonald MSP has been an Independent list MSP for Lothians since 2003, and was a SNP list Member from 1999. She is a former Chief Executive of Network Scotland, devised and set up Drugline, Smokeline, NHS Patients' Helpline, and managed and re-organised the National AIDS Helpline. She managed and updated the Training Access Points services for Local Enterprise Companies in the early 1990s.

Margo worked as a broadcaster with Radio Forth from 1981-85 after which she presented and reported for the BBC, Channel 4 and other major broadcasters. Margo was Director of Shelter Scotland 1978 – 1981 prior to which she began her career as writer and broadcaster. She was MP for Govan 1973 – 1974 before and after which she combined the roles of barmaid and mother. Her working life began as a PE teacher following her training at Dunfermline College. Margo is an ardent Hibernian supporter and a devotee of country music.

Panellist Biographies

Bill Skelly became HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland in April 2009. He is seconded from Lothian and Borders Police where he was appointed temporary Deputy Chief Constable in August 2008, having previously been the Assistant Chief Constable (Crime and Operational Support). He joined Lothian and Borders in 1990 and during this time he completed an MBA, the Strategic Command Course at Bramshill and graduated from Cambridge with a Diploma in Applied Criminology.

In 2005, he was seconded to New Scotland Yard leading the Immigration Crime Team within the Covert Policing Branch of the Metropolitan Police, followed by nine months in charge of the operational strands of the UK campaign targeting criminals involved in the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. His work in this area was recognised by the award of his second Chief Constable's commendation. On his return to Lothian and Borders, Bill led on a number of national policing issues including Liquor Licensing, CBRN, Public Protection and Ports Policing.

Catherine Stephens has worked in the sex industry for the past nine years. She loves her job. Catherine is also an activist with the International Union of Sex Workers and a member of the GMB trades union's branch for people who work in the sex industry.

The IUSW campaigns for the human, civil and labour rights of those who work in the sex industry, for everyone

who works in the sex industry to have the full protection of the law and to be included in the process of making decisions which will affect them, and for freedom to choose and respect for those choices, including the absolute right to say no.

Julie Bindel has been active in the campaign to end violence against women since 1979, as an activist, researcher and writer. In 1998, along with Professor Jalna Hanmer, she was instrumental in implementing and coordinating the very first feminist initiative in the UK to tackle men's use of women in prostitution.

The Kerb Crawler's Re-education Programme ran for a 12 month period in West Yorkshire, offering men an opportunity to become educated about the realities of prostitution and the related harm. Since then, Julie has worked on numerous projects relating to local and international sex industries, such as research into the connections between lap dancing and prostitution; a comparative study of legal and policy regimes dealing with prostitution in 4 countries; and research mapping on and off street sex industries in various cities and local boroughs in the UK.

She has written a variety of book chapters and papers on aspects of violence against women, and is co-editor of 'The Map of My Life', the Story of Emma Humphreys, Astraia Press, 2003. Julie is a founder member of the national feminist law reform campaign, Justice for Women, and a trustee of the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize. Julie currently works part-time as a consultant for

the London-based POPPY Project, and, as a freelance journalist writing mainly for the Guardian newspaper.

Roger Matthews is Professor of Criminology at London South Bank University and Director of the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Research Unit. Roger's work on prostitution began in 1985, early in his academic career.

During the 1980s and 1990s Roger conducted research on street prostitution and kerb crawling throughout the UK. In 2003, he was involved in an ESRC funded research project that considered different legislative approaches to prostitution from around the world. He is currently involved in a research on women exiting prostitution in collaboration with Eaves Housing (The Poppy Project). Roger has written a number of articles and reports on prostitution and last year he published a book with Routledge-Cavendish entitled 'Prostitution, Politics and Policy'.