

# the convention

THINK ANEW, ACT ANEW

Brexit & the Political Crash

MAY 12th & 13th 2017,  
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

"The hard questions remain. How do we repair the damage to ourselves, our constitution, and our European friends? How do we rebuild a future with our closest and most important trading partners? The Convention has all the makings of an essential debate."

**John le Carré, Spring 2017**

Keynote speeches by Gina Miller, Akala, Ian McEwan, Jarvis Cocker, Nick Clegg, Caroline Criado-Perez, Michael Gove, Sindhu Vee and Raoul Martinez.

# DAY ONE MAY 12TH

## FREE AT LAST? THE ECONOMY AND BREXIT

### GREAT HALL

8.45am **Arrival/Registration**

9.30am **Gina Miller opening keynote speech**

9.45am **Broken politics**

Is UK politics in terminal decline, or is renewal now a serious possibility?

With Anushka Asthana, Alastair Campbell, Kwasi Kwarteng, Anand Menon and Lisa Nandy. Chair: Jonathan Freedland.

10.30am **Will Europe make it?**

Can the EU meet the challenges of Brexit and populism to reinvent itself?

With Richard Corbett, Joseph Garcia, Charles Grant, Denisa Kostovicova, Frédéric Martel and Louise Rowntree. Chair: Will Hutton.

11.15am **Tea/Coffee**

11.45am **Ian McEwan keynote speech**

12.00pm **The populist insurgency**

Nationalist anti-globalist movements have battered establishment parties across the West. Is this the future, or have we reached 'peak' populism?

With Ian Dunt, Paul Mason, Denisa Kostovicova and Harriet Sergeant. Chair: Afua Hirsch.

1.00pm **Lunch break**

2.00pm **The UK economy: the debate that affects all our futures**

The most hotly disputed issue of the moment.

With Alice Enders, Will Hutton, Ann Pettifor and John Mills. Chair: Anatole Kaletsky.

2.45pm **Sindhu Vee keynote speech**

3.00pm **Media in the post-truth age**

How does the media survive and hold governments to account in a post-truth world?

With Carole Cadwalladr, David Elstein, Alan Rusbridger and Damian Tambini. Chair: Sonia Sodha.

3.45pm **Tea/Coffee**

4.00pm **Jarvis Cocker keynote speech**

4.10pm **Resisting bully Britain**

Racist and sexist abuse has doubled. What has happened to our tolerant society? Did it never exist?

With Viv Groskop, Sunder Katwala and Amy Longland. Chair: Mary Fitzgerald.

4.50pm **Caroline Criado-Perez keynote speech**

5.05pm **Break**

5.15pm **Convention questions with the Observer**

Conventioneers quiz a stellar line-up on the issues of the day.

Chaired by Andrew Rawnsley of the Observer, with Douglas Carswell, Stephen Dorrell, Rachel Johnson, Frances O'Grady and others.

### LECTURE HALL

10.30am **Psychology of hope, resilience and defeat**

These tough new times require psychological resilience as well as hope.

With Eric Kaufmann, Frances Stonor Saunders and Jay Watts.

12.15pm **Food is political**

The things we eat, where they come from and what they are doing to us are pressing issues that governments ignore at our peril.

With Rosie Boycott, Kath Dalmeny and Anna Taylor.

2.00pm **Without science everything is fiction**

Scientists fight back as politicians and big business dismiss empirical evidence for their own advantage.

With Mike Galsworthy, Sarah Main and Andrew Steale.

2.45pm **Disunited Kingdom**

The bonds between the nations of the UK were greatly weakened by the referendum. Will Ireland unify? Can the Scots go it alone?

With Neal Ascherson, Mary Lou McDonald, Vonny Moyes and Fintan O'Toole. Chair: Anthony Barnett.

# DAY TWO MAY 13TH

## WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT OUR DEMOCRACY

### GREAT HALL

8.45am **Arrival/Registration**

9.30am **Nick Clegg opening keynote speech**

9.45am **Future of the NHS**

How does the nation's favourite institution survive these straitened times and the threat of creeping privatisation?  
With Denis Campbell, Rachel Clarke, Martin McKee and Joan Laplana.

10.30am **A second Referendum is unnecessary**

Would a vote on any deal with the EU deal rip the country apart, or give people a chance to make up their minds with all the facts?

With A. C. Grayling, Diane James, Jo Maugham and Toby Young. Chair: Mariella Frostrup.

11.15am **Tea/Coffee**

11.45am **Michael Gove keynote speech**

12.00pm **Citizenship and immigration**

How will Brexit affect our ideas of who we are and where we belong?

With David Goodhart, Philippe Legrain, Sashy Nathan and Sayeeda Warsi. Chair: Helena Kennedy.

1.00pm **Lunch break**

2.00pm **Raoul Martinez keynote speech**

2.15pm **Are the English the real problem?**

Burgeoning English consciousness is powerful new driver in the politics of the UK. Where did it come from and why?

With Timothy Garton Ash, Suzanne Moore, Nick Pearce, Robert Toombs and Alex von Tunzelmann.  
Chair: Anthony Barnett.

3.00pm **Tea/Coffee**

3.20pm **Akala keynote speech**

3.40pm **Youth hustings**

At the end of two days of debate, it's time to hear from the youth of the UK, who will live with the consequences of our new world for far longer than the current Westminster decision makers.

With Hannah Clare, Caroline Hill, Jack Hughes and Darren Grimes. Chair: Abi Wilkinson

4.40pm **How do we reconnect people with their politics?**

The question that must be answered to reinvigorate and restore our democracy

With Hisham Abdel-Rahman, Mete Coban, Amina Gichinga, Paul Hilder and Bess Mayhew.  
Chair: John Harris

### LECTURE HALL

12.15pm **New and old forces in modern elections**

The web has made elections far more complex than they ever used to be. Is big data hijacking our democracy?

With Hisham Abdel-Rahman and Carole Cadwalladr, Eloise Todd and others

2.00pm **OPEN FORUM: What has happened to our democracy?**

Your place to share and debate your ideas with the Convention convenors.

With Amina Gichinga, John Harris, Matt Kelly and others.

“Brexit is the defining issue of our times, which has thrown up a huge number of large and agonising questions about how this country should operate. Despite all the apparent scrutiny of politics by the media, there remains a desperate need to ask ourselves what we’re trying to achieve and what the right strategy might be. The Convention on Brexit and the Political Crash promises to be a rare occasion at which a proper discussion can be had and real progress made. There has never been a more important time to get political – and the Convention is the ideal forum to begin.”

**Alain de Botton, Spring 2017**

**PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS**

**IN MEMORY OF GEORGINA HENRY**

Our event at Central Hall on May 12th & 13th will be held in memory of the late Georgina Henry of the Guardian.

Georgina Henry (1960-2014) was Deputy Editor of the Guardian and the founding editor of Comment is free (Cif). She was an inspiration to young women journalists. George was closely involved with the staging of the Convention on Modern Liberty in 2009.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**

WIFI: **CHW GUEST** (NO PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**PLEASE SWITCH YOUR MOBILE PHONE TO SILENT MODE**

**@The\_Convention\_**



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**JOIN THE DEBATE**