“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.
FREE AT LAST? THE ECONOMY AND BREXIT

GREAT HALL

8.45am  Arrivals/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?

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.

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 Arrivals/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?

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.

WE LISTEN AS WELL AS SPEAK
“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_
#ThinkAnew #ActAnew

www.theconvention.co.uk

JOIN THE DEBATE