

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 Akala, Ian McEwan, Jarvis Cocker,
Nick Clegg, Sindhu Vee, Raoul Martinez and surprise
guest speakers

DAY ONE
MAY 12TH

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR DEMOCRACY

Is politics broken?

Why are we having an election? Is this democracy at work, or is it the Establishment "taking back control" and revealing a failing system in the process?

With Jonathan Freedland, Alastair Campbell, Anand Menon, Kwasi Kwarteng, Lisa Nandy and Amina Gichinga

Can Europe make it?

Between the French and German elections Europe holds its breath. Renewal and disintegration are both possible. What does each mean for the UK?

With Frédéric Martel, Richard Corbett, Charles Grant, Denisa Kostovicova and Timothy Garton Ash

Dark New Order: Putin, Trump and the rise of far right in Europe

Will liberal democracy successfully fight back?

With Anne Applebaum, Afua Hirsch and Tim Garton Ash

The Economy: the debate that affects all our futures

No subject is more hotly disputed than the British economy under a hard Brexit.

With Ann Pettifor, Alice Enders, Will Hutton, John Mills and Ian Dunt

Media in the post-truth world

How does the media hold governments to account in the world of post-truth politics, where leaders Tweet their version of the facts direct to their supporters?

With Sonia Sodha, Alan Rusbridger, Harriet Sergeant and David Elstein

Bully Britain

Hate crime has doubled since the referendum. Racial and sexist abuse are common online. What has happened to us?

With Rachel Johnson, Caroline Criado-Perez and Viv Groskop

The psychology of Hope, Resilience and Defeat

The collision of politics and personality: in a polarised world many feel rejected and depressed. How do they learn hope and resilience?

With Jay Watts, Eric Kaufmann, Anthony Barnett, Frances Stonor Saunders

Without science everything is fiction

Science is one victim of the post-truth world. With politicians airily dismissing empirical evidence, scientists fight back.

With Mike Galsworthy

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT OUR DEMOCRACY

The Future of the NHS

The nation's favourite institution is already in crisis. Will Brexit add to the NHS's financial problems and staff shortages?

With Denis Campbell, Stephen Dorrell, Bob Kerslake and Dr Rachel Clarke

Our Disunited Kingdom (1): Northern Ireland & Scotland

The threat to the unity of the UK is plain. Could 'remain' majority in Northern Ireland ironically be the start to unification?

With Fintan O'Toole and Mary Lou McDonald

A General Election is seen as the precursor to another independence referendum by the SNP. How long before the Scots go it alone and apply to join the EU?

With Gerry Hassan, Jim Gallagher and Vonny Moyes

Citizenship and Immigration

What does the divide between the "somewheres" and the "anywheres" mean for British and European citizenship?

With David Goodhart, Sashy Nathan, A.C. Grayling and Philippe Legrain

Tactical voting and the digital election

Will politics be revolutionised by tactical voting and big data?

With Paul Hilder, Bess Mayhew

Our Disunited Kingdom (3): English Nationalism

Is English nationalism really the problem when it comes to the Europe and the threat to the Union?

With Nick Pearce, Suzanne Moore, Robert Tombs, Peter Frankopan

How do we reconnect people with their politics?

If democracy is to flourish in the Twenty First century an answer to this question must be found as a matter of urgency.

With Bess Mayhew, Amina Gichinga, Mary Fitzgerald

The Constitution

The unwritten British Constitution is no longer fit for purpose.

With Bob Kerslake, Anthony Barnett, Helena Kennedy

And questions from the Convention audience

Chaired by Andrew Rawnsley of The Observer, with Dominic Grieve, Douglas Carswell, Bob Geldof and Rachel Johnson

With also an Open Forum

“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
MORE SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED



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