



# Agenda for 2nd meeting of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland

**29 November to 1 December 2019**

The agenda for weekend 2 will cover

How to engage with evidence by exploring the different kinds of evidence available and how to think critically about these sources.

Presentations on what leads to a good life and a good society and how values influence the kind of nation we wish to be.

Preparing an answer to the first question in the Assembly remit –

- What kind of country are we seeking to build?

Agreeing topics for exploration in future meetings of the Assembly in order to begin to answer the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> questions in the Assembly remit -

- How can we best overcome the challenges faced by Scotland and the world, including arising from Brexit?
- What information do citizens need in order to take decisions about their future?

## Friday 29 November

- 17:30 Registration opens  
19:00 Welcome from Conveners

### Dinner and presentations

#### Trusted sources: A brief guide to the press and modern media

This presentation will allow members to consider where they get their information from. The media landscape over recent years has changed significantly and so has the way in which people receive news. This presentation will explore how this landscape has changed and what that means for the way information is received and considered. How can you trust what you are reading is true, in a world of “fake news”?

Presenter Phil Allan is an Account Director at 3x1 a public relations company which provides public relations services to the Assembly. He formerly worked as the editor of the Angus County Press and as journalist on the Press and Journal.

#### How do we ensure we have informed conversations?

The Citizens Assembly is built around 3 types of activities – learning, deliberation and taking decisions. Thinking about how we use information and evidence is important in this. The presentation will explore how we respond to evidence and introduce members to the evidential standards that the Conveners have established to ensure the evidence presented to Assembly members is balanced, credible and accessible.

Presenter Kaela Scott is Head of Democratic Innovation at Involve, a public participation charity, and is an expert adviser to the Assembly Secretariat. She focuses on developing the theory and practice of public engagement and new forms of democratic participation.

- 21:00 Close

## Saturday 30 November

08:30 Registration

09:00 Introductions from Convener

Research questionnaire

Reflections on work of weekend 1

Evidence and discussion sessions

What makes for a good life and what makes for a good country?

What makes a good life? In recent years, researchers have made great strides in defining and measuring wellbeing, and turning their work into outputs that help inform public decision-making. These presentations will outline what the statistical evidence says about the things that make us happy, and then discuss how this evidence can be used to decide on the priorities to follow if a country wants to improve its citizens' wellbeing. Presenter George Bangham is a policy analyst at the Resolution Foundation, a leading economic think-tank that works to improve the living standards of families on low and middle-incomes. His research looks at wealth inequality, labour markets, and wellbeing, and he has discussed these topics on BBC TV and radio. He previously worked as a policy and public affairs officer at ACEVO, the charity sector trade body, and studied history and economics at university.

12:45 Lunch

How values shape the country we are and the country we want to be?

What makes a good country? This presentation will describe what values are and what role they play in determining how people live their lives, how organisations act and what type of policies a government puts in place. A number of examples are given to stimulate discussions among assembly members.

Presenter Dr Elke Heins is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of Edinburgh. Her research and teaching focuses on comparative welfare state policies, in particular labour market policy as well as the politics of welfare and wellbeing.

## Deliberation and decision-making sessions

What kind of country are we seeking to build?

For the rest of the afternoon Assembly members will create a set of statements that they agree captures the breadth and diversity of views of the Citizens' Assembly.

17:30 Thanks and closing comments from Convener

19:00 Dinner

## Sunday 1 December

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome from Convener and reflections on the weekend so far.

## Deliberation and decision-making sessions

What kind of country are we seeing to build?

Assembly members will review the statements created on Saturday and rank these in order to identify a smaller set that they can agree captures the common ground between Assembly members.

### Priorities for future work

Assembly members will discuss and agree the topics they would like to explore further. Detailed evidence on those priorities will be presented in future weekends to inform decision-making about the wider questions in the Assembly remit on how we can best overcome our challenges and the information citizens need to take decisions about their future.

Outline of next steps and closing comments from Convener.

Reflection postcards and research questionnaire

13:30 Close and lunch