

SASO Annual Conference

Thursday 31st October 2024

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THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF OFFENDING

YOUNG PEOPLE & JUSTICE

The Royal Scots Club, Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6QE

TIME	PROGRAMME
9:15 am	<i>Arrivals, registration and coffee</i>
9:30 am	Welcome and opening address by Conference Chair: Professor Alexis Jay
9:35 am	<i>What is a child? A legal perspective</i> Lady Rae, Chair of SASO
09:50 am	<i>Young People and Justice: an international perspective</i> Professor Alistair Fraser, Professor of Criminology, University of Glasgow
10:30 am	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 am	<i>Decriminalising Children in Scotland</i> Fiona Dyer, Director of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, and Neil Hunter, Principal Reporter and Chief Executive of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
12 noon	<i>Keeping people out of the system</i> Jimmy Paul, Head of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and ACC Catriona Paton, Police Scotland
1:00 pm	<i>Lunch and networking</i>
2:00 pm	GIVIT some STREET Regen: FX Youth Trust
3:00 pm	The future of the Children's Hearings (Retired) Sheriff David Mackie
3:45 pm	Panel Session
4:30 pm	Closing session by Conference Chair: Professor Alexis Jay

Delegate Rates from £25 to £110

[Booking essential via Eventbrite here](#)

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Alexis Jay CBE

Alexis Jay is a visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde and Chair of the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection. She is a former social worker and former Director of Social Work in West Dunbartonshire. She was Chief Social Work Adviser to the Scottish Government and in 2005 she became Chief Social Work Inspector at the Social Work Inspection Agency. She led the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham. She also chaired the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in England and Wales. In 2023 she was appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to provide an independent system of safeguarding for the Church of England. In 2023/24, Professor Jay chaired a review of Child Criminal Exploitation, sponsored by the charity, Action for Children, which published a report 'Shattered lives, stolen futures'.



Lady Rae KC

Rita Rae became a solicitor in 1974 and joined the Faculty of Advocates in 1982, being appointed a QC in 1992. She was appointed a Sheriff at Glasgow in 1997 and became a Senator of the College of Justice in 2014. She retired from the High Court in 2020 and was elected Rector of Glasgow University in 2021. From 2003 to 2006 she was a member of the Scottish Sentencing Council. From 2001 to 2007 she was a member of the Parole Board for Scotland.

Professor Alistair Fraser

Alistair Fraser is Professor of Criminology at the University of Glasgow and a former Director of the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research. He teaches and researches issues of youth violence, street culture and urban crime, and has recently completed a large-scale study of violence reduction in the UK. He is the author of "Urban Legends: Gang Identity in the Post-Industrial City" and "Gangs and Crime: Critical Alternatives". He has a long-standing interest in comparative criminology spending four years as Assistant Professor of Criminology at the University of Hong Kong. He is a regular contributor to public debate on crime and justice and in 2017-18 was selected as a BBC "New Generation Thinker".



Fiona Dyer

Fiona Dyer is the Director of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYJC). As Director she leads CYJC towards its ambition of ensuring that Scotland's approach to children and young people in conflict with the law is rights-respecting, contributing to better outcomes for children and young people on the cusp of, or involved in, offending by promoting the best practice based on up-to-date evidence and research.

Prior to and since joining CYJC in 2013 Fiona has been committed to ensuring that the rights of children in conflict with the law are upheld. She aims to provide leadership across all sectors where children are involved to ensure children are treated as children. Her work to date includes the Expert Group on Preventing Sexual Offending Involving Children and Young People, Expert Review on Mental Health and Young Offenders, Age of Criminal Responsibility, Restorative Justice, Children's Rights and supporting the work of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Board. Fiona currently chairs the Age of Criminal Responsibility Data and Research Group, the Children's Rights Group, and the anti-social behaviour group.

Before joining CYCJ Fiona was seconded to the Scottish Government youth justice team for three years as a professional social work advisor to lead on the Scottish Government policy of the Whole System Approach which was implemented across Scotland. Prior to this, Fiona worked for ten years as a social worker and social work manager in the fields of youth and criminal justice within both rural and urban areas of Scotland.



Neil Hunter

Neil Hunter was appointed Principal Reporter and Chief Executive of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration in 2011. He has previously held operational and strategic posts across social work and health care services in Glasgow and Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Until 2010 he was Director of West Glasgow Community Health and Care Partnership. Prior to that he led the Addictions Partnership for the City of Glasgow.

Jimmy Paul

Jimmy Paul was appointed as Head of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (SVRU) in September 2023 following a career managing health and social care services, leading in care reforms in Scotland and as director of a charitable organisation working towards creating a well-being economy. He is a service designer, executive coach and has represented Scotland internationally on leadership programmes with the World Economic Forum and the British Council. Jimmy leads the SVRU in its work reducing violence across Scotland using evidence-based solutions. As part of that work, he is committed to ensuring those who have lived experience are at the heart of the mission to make Scotland the safest country to live in.



ACC Catriona Paton

Assistant Chief Constable Catriona Paton is the executive lead for Policing Together. Her portfolio consists of the following business areas - Policing Together; Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing (PPCW).

Catriona joined Central Scotland Police in June 1991. She was appointed to the rank of Chief Superintendent in July 2020 and served as Divisional Commander for the Lothians and Scottish Borders (J) Division, having previously led the Force Middle Office Remodelling, a service-wide transformation project.

She was promoted to ACC in June 2024.

Regen: FX Youth Trust

Regen:FX Youth Trust is a charity which aims to identify, design and deliver new and innovative solutions to ease youth poverty and its associated anti-social behaviour, and provide youth diversion in South Lanarkshire. GIVIT some STREET is an early intervention service provided by the Trust and the only one of its kind in Scotland. It targets young people of 11 years and older who can be affected by their own or someone else's substance misuse. The project uses a blend of Youth Work and Drama to engage participants.

Website: <http://www.regenfxhub.org/regenfxyouthtrust.org/index.html>



(Retired) Sheriff David Mackie

David Mackie was the resident Sheriff at Alloa for 15 years before his retirement in 2019. In the field of criminal justice, he developed an approach to judicial decision-making that was informed by compassion and a constantly evolving understanding of the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences on those appearing before him. He still sits as a part-time Sheriff but has had the opportunity of engaging more fully in charity work relating to the criminal justice system and addiction. He chaired the Hearings System Working Group whose "Hearings for Children" Report on the redesign of the Children's Hearing System was published in May 2023 and he continues to have an advisory role in its implementation. He chairs the Howard League in Scotland.

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