

# Conference: Poverty and Inequalities in Scotland



## 10 years of Devolution

We are delighted to invite you to a one day conference on **Friday 29th May 2009, 10am - 4pm** in the **Chamber of The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh**, chaired by the Presiding Officer, **Alex Fergusson MSP**.

**In Scotland, the overall distribution of income has changed little in the last decade. The income of the richest 10% of people in Scotland is approximately the same as the total income of the poorest 50%. \***

**In 2008 the best paid full-time female workers earned around 20% less than the best paid full-time male workers, the same difference as ten years ago. \***

**Over the last decade, the number of pensioners experiencing poverty has reduced from 31% to 16%. \***

This free event will be of interest to policy makers, community representatives, voluntary organisations, academics and individuals interested in reducing poverty and inequalities in Scotland.

As ever, places are limited and will be given on a first come basis.

Places can be reserved at [event@scotlandfutureforum.org](mailto:event@scotlandfutureforum.org)



## This conference marks the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Parliament.

It will explore the extent to which the Parliament, in its first decade, has reduced poverty and inequalities; and will present views on what the Parliament should be doing in the next 10 years to further alleviate disadvantage and inequalities in Scotland.

Keynote speeches and presentations will be followed by an interactive Cafe conversation and a soap box Expo, where ideas and research relating to different dimensions of poverty and inequality will be examined.

### Programme

- 0915 **Registration desk opens.** Tea and coffee on arrival
- 1000 **Presiding Officer's welcome and address**  
**Keynote presentations: have we met the challenge?**
- 1010 Julia Unwin, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- 1030 Bob Holman, Community volunteer
- 1045 Morag Gillespie, Scottish Poverty Information Unit
- 1100 Questions and Discussion:  
Facilitated by Keith Aitken, journalist

#### Breakout Session 1

- 1145 Group A: Conversation cafe, including working lunch
- 1145 Group B: Dialogue with expo speakers, including working lunch

#### Breakout Session 2

- 1330 Group A : Dialogue with expo speakers
- 1330 Group B : Conversation cafe

#### Plenary Session in the Chamber

- 1520 Presiding Officer opens session
- 1525 Summary of themes discussed: Keith Aitken
- 1535 Questions and discussion
- 1555 Presiding Officer's closing remarks
- 1600 Conference Close



SPIU has produced a background paper, 'Poverty and Inequalities in Scotland: 10 Years of Devolution'

[www.povertyinformation.org/fileuploads/10-years-of-scottish-devolution-3539.pdf](http://www.povertyinformation.org/fileuploads/10-years-of-scottish-devolution-3539.pdf)

\*These statistics are from the website [www.poverty.org.uk](http://www.poverty.org.uk) This site monitors what is happening to poverty and social exclusion in the UK. The material is organised around 100 statistical indicators covering all aspects of the subject, from income and work to health and education.



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