

Conference Booking Form

Please reserve me a place at the Rape Crisis Scotland Conference

BOOKING DETAILS

Full Name: _____

Designation: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Contact person: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Dietary requirements: _____

Access requirements: _____

Interpreting requirements: *(language)* _____

Signing requirements: *(please specify)* _____

PAYMENT

I enclose a crossed cheque payable to Rape Crisis Scotland for

£ _____

or

Please invoice me for

£ _____

“ Scotland needs a robust, modern framework of laws in this area, fit for the 21st century – a clear legal framework that ensures rapists and sex offenders are brought to justice and that victims have confidence in the justice system.”

Kenny MacAskill, *Cabinet Secretary for Justice*, welcoming the publication of the Scottish Law Commission’s bill on sexual offences

19 December 2007

“ The outcome of the review signals a major reform of the way in which the COPFS approaches the investigation and prosecution of rape and sexual offences... I am confident that implementation of the recommendations in the report will provide a sound basis to deliver an improved quality of investigation and prosecution. Our aspiration is to build strong, more compelling cases, while treating victims with the courtesy, respect and sensitivity that they are due.”

Lord Advocate Elish Angiolini, in a statement to Scottish Parliament on the COPFS review of the investigation and prosecution of rape and sexual offences

15 June 2006

**RAPE
CRISIS
SCOTLAND**



**RAPE
CRISIS
SCOTLAND**

**Legal Responses to Rape:
Redressing the Balance**

A Rape Crisis Scotland Conference

Tuesday 4 March 2008

Thistle Hotel
Cambridge Street, Glasgow

Only 3.9% of rapes reported to the police in Scotland lead to a conviction. Concerns about the criminal justice response to women reporting rape led to two major reviews being established in 2003 and 2004: a review of the investigation and prosecution of rape and sexual offences, and a review of rape and the criminal law. Both reviews have now reported – the Crown Office is in the process of implementing 50 recommendations changing the way rape is prosecuted in Scotland, and a new bill reforming the law on sexual offences has been released for consultation. This conference provides a critical opportunity to find out more about the outcomes of both reviews; consider whether the proposed legislation is likely to make a significant difference to complainers of sexual offences; highlight other issues affecting those giving evidence in rape and sexual offence trials, and examine different legal strategies for change.

Set in this context, **Rape Crisis Scotland** is hosting this conference:

- to provide information on legal developments relating to justice responses to rape and other sexual offences
- to bring together policy makers and those working with survivors of sexual violence
- to develop a greater understanding of the issues facing women reporting rape and other sexual offences, with a view to inputting shared concerns into current legal developments

The Audience: We are keen to encourage the attendance of policy makers, sheriffs and judges, the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal service, members of the Scottish Law Commission, solicitors, academics, women who have had involvement in the criminal justice system, staff from rape crisis centres and other support agencies, local authorities, MSPs, statutory and voluntary organisations and individuals who wish their views taken into account.

The Workshops: Each workshop will have up to 20 participants, a designated facilitator and scribe, with the remit to explore its theme through discussion. Observations will be recorded on flip charts and reported to the final session for further discussion and debate.

The Programme:

- 9.30 – 10.00am** Registration and coffee
- 10.00 – 10.15am** Opening remarks by **Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill**
- 10.15 – 11.00am** Prosecuting rape, **Lord Advocate, Elish Angiolini**
- 11.00 – 11.45am** Reforming the law on rape and sexual offences, **Professor Gerry Maher, Scottish Law Commission**
- 11.45am – 12noon** BREAK
- 12noon** The use of sexual history and character evidence in sexual offence trials, **Professor Michele Burman**
- 12.45pm** LUNCH
- 1.30pm** Representing the complainer – independent legal representation as a way forward, **Professor Fiona Raitt**
- 2.15pm** Facilitated Workshops (each topic has two workshops running in parallel)
- Investigating rape
 - Prosecuting rape
 - Defining rape
- 3.15pm** BREAK
- 3.30pm** Feedback from workshops.
- 4.00pm** Plenary
- 4.30pm** CLOSE

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Cambridge Street, Glasgow G2 3HN

FEES

Standard Conference Fee	£100
Conference Fee for low-income voluntary sector organisations	£50
Individuals	£20

We are keen to include your views – please get in touch.

Discretionary free places may be available – please get in touch.

TO BOOK

Please complete the form overleaf and return to:

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