

Speakers and Contributors:

Siobhian Brown, MSP

Minister for Victims and Community Safety

Born in London to Scottish parents, Siobhian Brown emigrated to Australia when she was four and was raised and educated in Sydney. On leaving school, she travelled the world, working in Spain, Italy and London, before settling in Scotland in 1999.

In 2010 she set up a Global Charity Benny Walk for her friend's son who died of a DIPG brain tumour at the age of five and also set up South Ayrshire Babybank.

A former South Ayrshire councillor, Ms Brown was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2021 as MSP for Ayr. Until her ministerial appointment, she served as Convener of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee.

Away from politics, she enjoys walking the Ayrshire coast with her husband, children and Ruby the dog.

Siobhian Brown was appointed as Minister for Victims and Community Safety in March 2023.

Graham Boyack, Director, Scottish Mediation

graham.boyack@scottishmediation.org.uk

[Scottish Mediation – Turning Disagreement into Opportunity](#)

Graham has been Director of the Scottish Mediation since August 2012. During that period, he has contributed to policy as a member of the Scottish Government Administrative Justice review, the Digital justice Working Group and more recently on a working group on Marches and Parades in Scotland. He is a mediator with the Edinburgh Sheriff Court Mediation Service.

Graham has worked extensively in the third and public sector and brings senior leadership experience, having worked in Student Unions, The Festival City Theatres Trust and the Scottish Ambulance Service. He has strong skills in partnership working, governance, policy development, has an MBA and is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute.

Dawn Dickson, Partner, Anderson Strathern

Dawn.Dickson@andersonstrathern.co.uk

[Solicitors in Edinburgh | Anderson Strathern](#)

[Workplace Mediation | Anderson Strathern](#)

Dawn is an accredited mediator and has been an employment lawyer for almost 25 years. Dawn sees mediation as key to protecting employee wellbeing and allowing a speedy resolution in times of dispute.

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Masterclass: Mediating with Neurodiversity

Dr Mike Talbot, CEO of UK Mediation and EU Mediation

mike@ukmediation.net

[UK Mediation | Homepage](#)

Mike is a highly experienced psychotherapist, mediator, trainer, lecturer, and the founder of UK Mediation and EU Mediation. With over 26 years' experience in the conflict resolution field, Mike specialises in applying his in-depth knowledge of psychological processes to the resolution of disputes for teams, groups, and organisations.

Laura Kerby, Neurodiversity and Education Consultant, founder of P-AST

Laura.Kerbey@p-ast.co.uk

<https://p-ast.co.uk/>

Laura Kerbey is a neurodivergent author, public speaker and trainer and the founder of Positive Assessments Support and Training P-AST). She has worked with neurodivergent young people and their families for over 20 years and is passionate about raising awareness and understanding of neurodiversity.

Dr John Fergusson, Psychiatrist, founder and Medical Director, Edinburgh Adult Psychiatry

drjohn@edinburghadultpsychiatry.co.uk

[Edinburgh Adult Psychiatry | Your partner for mental health](#)

Dr John Ferguson qualified as a doctor in Aberdeen, before moving to Edinburgh in 2000 to specialise in psychiatry. He has worked for the NHS in East Lothian as a Consultant Adult Psychiatrist since 2009, most recently in a part role developing a dedicated ADHD clinic. In 2023, after 8 years in private practice with Spire Edinburgh Hospitals, he founded Edinburgh Adult Psychiatry, a provider of private high-quality mental health services, specialising in ADHD, AuDHD and autism. His own diagnosis of ADHD (inattentive subtype), made in his 40s, came as no surprise to his amazing wife Fiona (a local GP). They live in East Lothian with their 3 children and 2 dogs.

Eve Pienaar, CEDR Mediator (Commercial)

eve@evepienaar.com

<https://www.evepienaar.com/>

Eve Pienaar is a full-time commercial and workplace mediator, accredited and working with CEDR since 2007. Eve is also on Faculty for CEDR as mediator coach and assessor. Eve is a Fellow of the CMC, IMI certified and is highly acclaimed in the mediator directories. Eve is passionate about making mediation inclusive and accessible to all.

Sarah Ross, founder, Better Mediation.

www.bettermediation.co.uk

sarahross@bettermediation.co.uk

After years in marketing and management roles, Sarah brings wide ranging commercial experience to her empathetic mediation practice. She is a Family Mediation Council registered mediator, a member of The Family Mediators Association and registered and accredited by Scottish Mediation. Her family and workplace mediation practice is based in Edinburgh and Sarah works in all areas of the UK. Sarah especially relishes complex cases and often co-mediate with like-minded colleagues. Sarah has conducted over 400 individual assessment meetings and over 100 mediation sessions. She is a passionate advocate of Child Inclusive Mediation.

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Masterclass: Mediating with Neurodiversity

Nadine Martin, Partner and Head of Family Law (Glasgow), Gibson Kerr Solicitors.

nadine.martin@gibsonkerr.co.uk

[Calm Scotland – Bridge differences with mediation](#)

info@calmscotland.co.uk

Nadine is a highly experienced family lawyer and mediator, accredited by the Law Society of Scotland as a specialist in family law, child law, and family mediation. She is certified to provide child-inclusive mediation. She is also trained in collaborative practice and is a member of the CALM mediation convenors' committee and the Collaborative Law committee. She is qualified as a 'lawyer for children'.

Nadine was one of the first Scottish solicitors to promote and encourage trauma-aware practice. She co-designed and teaches the Law Society of Scotland's certification in trauma-informed legal practice which is now in its sixth cohort and has trained hundreds of Scottish solicitors on the impact of trauma and how to mitigate this when representing clients.

She was invited to the European Parliament in 2024 to participate in discussions on the Istanbul Convention and the state's obligation to provide protection to victims of gender-based violence. She volunteers at Shared Parenting Scotland, providing advice and information to parents who wish to make a shared parenting arrangement for their children.

Archie Waters, BSc Psy., Dip. Y&Cs. (Ret.)

Archie.rwaters@googlemail.com

Archie has had an illustrious career in outdoor education (OE) becoming a pioneering figure in community-based OE services. As a child who suffered from the worst effects of ADHD, before it was recognised as a psychological condition, the development of OE as a career opportunity was a blessing. Philosophically, he saw OE activities as the vehicle by which people and their lives can be positively changed. On retirement, still eager to support people, he trained in mediation with the ADR Group in London, personally focusing on neighbourhood and community mediations.

Malcolm Currie, Vice Chair at Scottish Mediation and founder, Strathesk Resolutions Limited

malcolm@strathesk.co.uk

<https://www.strathesk.co.uk/specialist/malcolm-currie>

Drawing on more than 25 years in industrial relations, Malcolm established his dispute resolution company a decade ago. Engaging with employers in all sectors, he continually develops his expertise in resolving disputes. A CEDR Associate, CEDR Mediator and part of the CEDR Mediation Skills Training Faculty, Malcolm has mediated, trained, coached and mentored individuals, teams and organisations to work more effectively together. Malcolm was recently appointed as Vice Chair of Scottish Mediation.

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Masterclass: Mediating with Neurodiversity

Louise Storie, Head of Connect, The Donaldson Trust, the national body for Neurodiversity

LStorie@donaldsons.org.uk

[National Body for Neurodiversity - The Donaldson Trust](#)

Louise is a highly experienced practitioner in the field of neurodiversity. Throughout her extensive career she has worked with individuals, businesses and organisations across the United Kingdom to facilitate, mentor and deliver support, learning and development to improve the experiences of neurodivergent people.

Louise is currently head of external training, consultancy and advice at the Donaldson Trust, Scotland's National Body for Neurodiversity. For the past 2 years Louise has been a trainer on The National Autism Trainer Programme for the Anna Freud Centre and A-T autism. This programme was designed for NHS England and was rolled out across the country to improve practice and outcomes for autistic people.

Jemma Forrest, Senior Associate, Anderson Strathern

Jemma.Forrest@andersonstrathern.co.uk

[Solicitors in Glasgow | Anderson Strathern](#)

[Workplace Mediation | Anderson Strathern](#)

Jemma is an accredited mediator and has experience mediating employment disputes and other civil disputes. She is also an experienced and accredited employment lawyer so has a keen interest in this form of dispute resolution as she has first-hand insight into the benefit for clients.

Cameron Cross, Mediator and Practitioner

cameronscross239@gmail.com

Cameron is an Autistic, accredited mediator with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, as well as a trainee psychotherapist and investigator affiliate of the Government Counter Fraud Profession.

Cameron's mediation practice has focussed on workplace-related disputes involving neurodiversity, and he has often worked with Scottish Mediation's Third Sector Project to mediate disputes for charities.

His educational background is as a modern linguist with research foci in the fields of Disability and Dehumanisation Studies, and he uses the insights gained from his research to inform a Disability and Neurodiverse affirming practice.

Fiona Gray, HR Business Partner, Anderson Strathern

Fiona.Gray@andersonstrathern.co.uk

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[Workplace Mediation | Anderson Strathern](#)

Fiona is an accredited and registered mediator and has experience in mediating both employee and civil disputes. As an established and qualified commercial leader, and MCIPD HR Business Partner, Fiona understands both the positive commercial impact and the benefit to employee relations of swift, informal dispute resolution. It was Fiona's recent experience of Mediating with Neurodiversity for Scottish Mediation that was the inspiration for this conference.