**Press Release**

Just Festival presents

**Slaves in Scotland – a conversation**
'But we have no slaves in Scotland…,' states a Scottish law report from 1687. And yet, it was not made illegal to own a slave in Scotland until 1788. Newspapers in Edinburgh and Glasgow used to run adverts for slaves, at various prices, or offer rewards for escaped slaves. The wealth of Scotland benefitted from the Atlantic Slave trade as much as the rest of the British Isles.

After a long abolition campaign, slavery (the entire trade, not just keeping a slave on UK soil) was formally abolished by Parliament in 1833. Yet slavery is still very much present in Scotland today – it simply takes different forms. It is less open and brazen, and more hidden under the surface of society – via trafficking, indentured servitude or unlawful imprisonment. Slaves are no longer openly traded, and yet slavery has been found to exist in a number of industries – domestic service, sex work and construction.

A open discussion on a depressingly universal practice, **Slaves in Scotland** will seek to address what modern slavery is, what enforcement agencies and NGOs are doing to challenge the practice, and what ordinary people can do to help.

The conversation will be chaired by Eric Robertson, of **Tumbling Lassie** and **Arnot Manderson Advocates**. Eric was called to the bar in 1994, and has a professional interest in (among many other areas) reparation; professional negligence; and company law (including unfair prejudice petitions and insolvency). Speakers will also feature from **Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance** and the **Police Scotland Human Trafficking Unit, Gartcosh**.

<https://www.just-festival.org/2018-just-festival-programme/#/slaves-in-scotland/>

**Chair:** Eric Robertson Advocate (Tumbling Lassie)

**Panelists:**
Bronagh Andrew (Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance -TARA)
DS Stuart Houston (Police Scotland Human Trafficking Unit, Gartcosh)
Wendy Henderson (Trafficking and Exploitation Subgroup, CEC)

**Listings information: Slaves in Scotland**Venue: The Just Festival @ St John’s  (Venue 127)
Dates:  10 Aug
Tickets: Free, but ticketed
Time:   17.30 (1hr 30 mins)
Online: https://www.just-festival.org/box-office/