

CMA Conference 2017 Panel Discussion - Voices for Change

Rob Watson – Panel Discussion Notes

Audio of the Discussion is available from (panel discussion 001)

<http://robwatsonmedia.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CMA-Conf17-002-Panel-01.mp3>

Open With Video (5.00)

Grenfell Media Tower - The media have dismissed the community with hollow platitudes

Ishmahil Blagrove says how the community feel under the shadow of Grenfell, lessons not being learnt from Camberwell in 2009 and how the mainstream media facilitate and validate the government's failures. <https://youtu.be/cXw-BVGiNkk>

<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/ishmahil-blagrove>

<http://soundsfromthepark.on-the-record.org.uk/people/ishmail-blagrove/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/media-blog/2017/jul/09/grenfell-survivors-blame-mainstream-media-for-ignoring-them>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jun/13/election-tories-media-broadcasters-press-jeremy-corbyn>

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2017/aug/06/can-you-trust-mainstream-media>

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/media-blog/2017/jun/25/grenfell-reflects-the-accountability-vacuum-left-by-crumbling-local-press>

<http://chat.commedia.org.uk/>

Introduction - Short Biography of Each Contributor (3.00)

Biographies

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Saoussen Ben Cheikh, Internews

Saoussen is a Human Rights activist who has worked extensively across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region delivering aid, mentoring grass roots community initiatives, documenting human rights violations and researching on issues of governance and democracy. She currently works in Internews' MENA team supporting local media and civil society development programs.

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Mary Dowson, Director, Bradford Community Broadcasting (BCB)

A former board member and Chair of the Community Media Association, Mary played a significant role in achieving the licensing of community radio stations nationally. She was a co founder of BCB over 25 years ago. Passionate about her adopted community, she serves on the board of Bradford Unesco City of Film, Bradford Women's Forum and is active in many community organisations addressing peace, justice and equality.

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Dr Lawrie Hallett, Senior Lecturer in Radio, University of Bedfordshire

Dr. Lawrie Hallett is a Senior Lecturer in Radio at the University of Bedfordshire, a member

of Community Media Forum Europe. He has been fortunate enough to work in broadcasting all of his adult life as a broadcast consultant specialising in technology and community-based broadcasting and a producer and presenter on stations in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. Before moving to the University of Bedfordshire, Lawrie was part of Ofcom's Radio Team where he developed and implemented policies around community radio and digital audio broadcasting in particular. When not teaching or involved in research, Lawrie can often be found making radio programmes for pleasure or rebuilding old steam locomotives.

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Sid Ryan, Media Coordinator, The Bristol Cable

Sid is a media-coordinator at the Bristol Cable and looks for stories about the NHS, and for new writers who need a leg-up into the world of journalism. Previously Sid worked at the Centre for Investigative Journalism, researching fire safety defects in PFI hospitals. He has also worked at Request Initiative a specialist Freedom of Information consultancy catering to Greenpeace, Shelter and the Open Rights Group.

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Alec Saelens, Operations & Media, The Bristol Cable

Alec is co-founder of The Bristol Cable. His interests include undertaking and supporting investigative journalism and media co-op development.

Questions

- What is the role of community media in a changing world?

- How do we give a voice to all kinds of people?

- How do we respond to world events and how they affect our local communities?

- What is the role of community media in the media landscape?