



PRESS/PHOTOCALL

## LAUNCH OF THE SCOTLAND INSTITUTE

THE TRADES HOUSE OF GLASGOW, 85 GLASSFORD ST, GLASGOW G1 1UH

FRIDAY JUNE 29 10.30-11.30AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: RT HON ALISTAIR DARLING MP

A NEW think tank for Scotland and its people will be launched this Friday.

The Scotland Institute, a non-political independent body, will examine the social and economic health of the Scottish nation as it prepares to face one of the biggest questions in its modern history.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer/crew to the launch of The Scotland Institute, a modern vibrant new idea for Scotland.

Former Chancellor of the Exchequer and keynote speaker the Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP will help launch the Institute, which brings together some of the finest minds in the country to examine in detail the current state of our nation.

The Institute was set up by Scottish academic and philanthropist Dr Azeem Ibrahim and will be funded through The Ibrahim Foundation as it becomes self sustainable. It has one purpose in mind: to generate cutting edge research into Scotland and its people as well as drive innovative policies and ideas, especially aimed at this country's disadvantaged.

Dr Ibrahim said: "We will at all times be guided by the social and economic data we uncover. We will examine all aspects of life in Scotland. Three theses are already commissioned, the first of these looking at poverty in Scotland today. Some of the findings are remarkable."

Dr Ibrahim has assembled a formidable line up of speakers for the launch with the Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, Jackson Carlaw MSP, Jo Swinson MP and Prof Jim Mather all lending their considerable experience to the project.

The key aims of the Scotland Institute are:

- \*A detailed examination of the pros and cons of the biggest constitutional decision in Scotland's modern history
- \*A road map to keep Scotland on the right economic track in an increasingly competitive and globalised world
- \*Recognising Scotland's marginalised communities as the untapped potential for change
- \*To help build an economy which is sustainable and competitive, a society where wealth is fairly distributed, and a politics which tackles social exclusion and deprivation as a matter of course.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Scotland Institute was founded by Dr Azeem Ibrahim in 2012. Glasgow-born Dr Ibrahim's extensive experience in academia and advising governments convinced him of the need for a progressive think tank in Scotland.

Dr Ibrahim, originally from Garnethill in Glasgow, has run a number of successful businesses and now concentrates on academia and advising foreign governments on international policy. He is currently strategic policy adviser to Imran Khan, the man destined to become Pakistan's next Prime Minister.

Dr Ibrahim was named one of the Top Global Thinkers of 2009 by the LSDP European Social Think Tank and a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

With a PhD from the University of Cambridge, Dr Ibrahim is highly in demand for his expertise in the area of geopolitical strategy. He has advised many world leaders in recent years and served as an International Security Fellow at Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, a World Fellow at Yale and an Adjunct Research Professor at the Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College.

Dr Ibrahim also founded a number of award-winning companies in three continents, including his most recent venture, Ibrahim Associates - a non-profit strategic consultancy firm. His many years of experience as a policy expert led him to consider the situation in his own home country. He knew that innovative policy solutions were required if Scotland was to remain globally competitive, and he responded to this need by setting up The Scotland Institute. In his speech to launch the Institute he states:

"We are faced with an unprecedented level of uncertainty regarding our economic, social and global position. Today's policymakers will have to explain how to keep Scotland more competitive as global power shifts east, how to make Scotland work for its poorest, and how to answer the biggest constitutional question Scotland has faced in its history. We believe that this unique set of challenges calls for a unique response.

The Scotland Institute is a progressive and independent think tank set up to deal with the changing face of Scotland.

We aim to investigate the implications of devolution, find innovative solutions to the problems of social exclusion and encourage Scotland's competitiveness in the global market. Through high-quality comprehensive research and policy making we hope to put Scotland on a path towards a more competitive, progressive, and optimistic future.

We need not look far for inspiration; for like the philosophers of the Scottish Enlightenment, we believe that ideas are the guiding light which can change the face of society for the better."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE PLEASE CONTACT CHARLES LAVERY ON 07836 606837

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