



**Cyrenians Scottish Centre
for Conflict Resolution**

**INTERNATIONAL FREE
ONLINE CONFERENCE**

**'Can't, not won't'
Is there a choice? Or is
there a barrier?**

March 2025

We acknowledge the support of the Scottish Government through a CYPFEIF and ALEC Fund Grant. Cyrenians is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered charity SC011052.



Check out our exciting programme of events below!

Following the success of our previous online international festival of events we are once again inviting speakers, collaborators, professionals and families from across the globe to join us for SCCR'S International FREE Online Conference, March 2025.

'Can't' not 'won't' - Is there a choice? Or is there a barrier? will cover a series of online talks, discussions and workshops. We ask a lot of children and young people, and when some don't conform with societal standards, the temptation is to blame them for not measuring up. This year's conference theme offers participants a reset of expectations surrounding vulnerable young people as we look at the difficulties they can face. For many young people, it's not a case of 'won't' but of 'can't'; life has limited their ability to make progress. The conference will examine what these barriers are, how they came to be – and what we can do to help them pass these obstacles.

Our events include:

Recovering from Violence with James Docherty, Scottish Violence Reduction Unit - 10:00 on 13th March

Status Quo or Status No: Rethinking Mental Health in Education with Billy Burke, SAMH - 16:00 on 13th March

Young Carers: Give me a Break with Lorna Gibson, Carers Trust Scotland - 11:00 on 18th March

An inclusive approach to supporting children with language difficulties (with a focus on Developmental Language Disorder) with Fiona Petrie, NHS Lothian - 10:00 on 20th March

It Takes all Kind of Minds: Neurodiversity Workshop with Nelly Whaley, Salvesen Mindroom Centre - 14:00 on 20th March

Flipping the Script with Aimee McDonald and Katie Walker, SCCR - 14:00 on 25th March

Balancing Screen Time with Sheena Peckham, Internet Matters - 10:00 on 26th March

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Meet our speakers!

James Docherty, Scottish Violence Reduction Unit

James Docherty has worked in Violence Prevention for 15 years and is currently a Project Manager within the SVRU. He leads on assessment, formulation and interventions that contribute to all (SVRU) activity using a public health approach to reduce violence. Role deliverables include developing and delivering projects, ensuring interventions are rights respecting, trauma informed and inclusive of lived experience voice.



Billy Burke, SAMH

Billy Burke is passionate about achieving systems change to improve wellbeing for all. He joined SAMH in 2023 to lead the charity's work on improving mental health for young people in Scotland. He worked in education for the previous 25 years, is a former secondary head teacher and is Past President of School Leaders Scotland.

Lorna Gibson, Carers Trust Scotland

Lorna Gibson coordinates the Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance, an informal network of over 50 young carers services from across Scotland. The SYCSA meets regularly to identify challenges for young carers and local services and share examples of good practise.



Fiona Petrie, NHS Lothian

Based in East Lothian, Fiona is now working as the clinical lead for developmental language disorder across NHS Lothian, supporting colleagues and aiming to raise awareness of all things language.

Nelly Whaley, Salvesen Mindroom Centre

As an organisation founded upon lived experience, Mindroom champions all forms of neurodiversity and supports all kinds of minds. Our mission is to advance inclusion and acceptance for children, young people, and their families, driving change in how we live, work, and learn.



Aimee McDonald and Katie Walker, SCCR

Aimee studied Psychology at the University of Dundee and her master's in applied psychology (Healthcare) for young people at the University of Edinburgh. Since 2015, she has worked across a variety of settings including NHS, CAMHS and the charity sector. Katie studied Primary Education at the University of Northumbria. For seven years, she taught in a range of primary age groups in Inner City London. During this time, she worked on creating an inclusive, trauma informed space for her classes to thrive in.



Shenna Peckham, Internet Matters

Sheena Peckham has worked with Internet Matters for three years, collaborating with industry partners and online safety experts to provide advice for parents/carers, educators and children. Before joining Internet Matters, she worked as an educator supporting children's literacy at the Secondary and College levels.