

Notice is hereby given of the **32nd Annual General Meeting** of **PARITY** to be held on **Saturday 8th June 2019** at the **Union Jack Club** (in the Disney Room) **Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ** commencing at **12 noon**.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

11:00 DOORS OPEN - Coffee & Biscuits.

12:15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

To be followed by a free buffet lunch.

14:00 OPEN MEETING.

Talk by guest Speaker **Neil Lyndon** on

"HAS THE AGE OF FEMINISM BROUGHT ABOUT A FORM OF TOTALITARIANISM?"

15:30 FINISH.



Union Jack Club

Disney Room

Sandell Street

London

SE1 8UJ

Please bring this Notice with you to gain entry as security checks are in place.

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PARITY OBJECTIVES

Objects

The Objects of PARITY are in accordance with those set out in the current PARITY Constitution:

- (1) To promote and protect the equal rights of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights under the law.
- (2) To institute proceedings in the UK or appropriate European Courts for the purpose of establishing or protecting any such equal rights

Current PARITY objectives

a)	All law to be gender neutral unless relating to pregnancy and childbirth.	1 vote
b)	Equal application of laws to men and women with only individual considerations, not gender or other grouping, in all stages of implementation.	1 vote
c)	Equal provisions for men and women in all statutory and public policies and benefits.	1 vote
d)	Equal treatment of victims of domestic violence, both male and female, and their children	1 vote
e)	Substantially equal public funding for medical research into and treatment of male and female specific diseases	1 vote
f)	Equal status for separated parents and more rigorous enforcement of child contact and of maintenance orders	4 votes
g)	Effective Government policies to improve the academic performance of boys and to encourage a more even balance between men and women in primary school teaching	2 votes
h)	Funding for research into the reasons for and means of reducing the persistent difference in life expectancy between men and women	1 vote
i)	Equal anonymity for defendants and complainants in sex offence cases unless a particular case, with specific court agreement, may demonstrably benefit from releasing the name of the defendant	1 vote

Survey Results:

- Thank you to the 4 responses received.
- Results of their top 3 votes shown in right column above.
- Additional objective suggested - "*Equal funding for male supporting charities.*"

AGENDA for the Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM.
3. Matters arising.
4. Chair's Report
5. Honorary Secretary's Report.
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2018.
7. Election of Honorary Officers.
8. Election of other Trustees.
9. Appointment of Auditor.
10. Resolutions (of which due notice shall have been given).
11. Any Other Business.

NOTES TO AGENDA ITEMS

2)	A copy of the Minutes of the Thirty First Annual General Meeting of PARITY held on the 2 nd June 2018 was published in September 2018 News Briefing and may be obtainable from the Hon Secretary.						
6)	The Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 st December 2018 are given on pages 9 and 10.						
7)	<p>The following Officers are willing to serve again as subject to the agreement of Members in ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING under Page4 Clause 4 of the Constitution (as amended), and his nomination is hereby proposed, showing the date first elected:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"><tr><td>Hon. Secretary</td><td>Chandra Vaghela</td><td>2016</td></tr><tr><td>Hon. Treasurer</td><td>Keith Richardson</td><td>2017</td></tr></table> <p>John Mays, who has held Chair role since 1998, is finally handing over to a new Chair and will become an ex-officio Hon. Trustee. We are thankful to John for leading PARITY over this long period of time and we hope to continue receiving the benefit of his guidance in the coming year.</p>	Hon. Secretary	Chandra Vaghela	2016	Hon. Treasurer	Keith Richardson	2017
Hon. Secretary	Chandra Vaghela	2016					
Hon. Treasurer	Keith Richardson	2017					

	<p>See John's retirement message to the AGM on Page 5.</p> <p>Board of Trustees has recruited Rex Bourne, who wishes to stand for election as Chair and has been nominated and seconded unanimously by John Mays and the other Trustees. See Rex's brief resume and statement on Page 6.</p> <p>Any other nominations must be proposed and seconded and have the consent of the nominee. Nominations must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary by the 25th May 2019.</p>
8)	<p>The following members are willing to continue to serve as Trustees and their nominations are hereby proposed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ian Levy</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">David Hyatt</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tony Upton</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Andy Charalambous</p> <p>Ketan Shah, who was previously co-opted into the Committee, has resigned as a Trustee, but continues to provide valuable IT services, for which we are immensely thankful.</p> <p>There remain two vacancies. Any member who is willing to serve as a Trustee is invited to seek nomination and stand for election. All nominations must be proposed and seconded and have the consent of the nominee. Forms must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary by the 25th May 2019.</p>
10)	<p>Any general resolutions should be submitted to the Hon. Secretary also by the 25th May 2019.</p>

JOHN MAYS RETIREMENT MESSAGE – AGM 8th June 2019.

I look forward to welcoming Members of PARITY to our Annual General Meeting at the Union Jack Club on the 8th June 2019. This will be my final AGM as Chair. I will be handing over to Rex Bourne (subject to the AGM's Agreement) who I know will prove an excellent successor.

I became Chairman in 1997 – 22 years ago. Looking back the world seems to have been a different place. Mobile phones were (relatively) unsophisticated – this was before the i-phone – and the internet was just beginning to take over from the fax machine as a convenient way of communication. In politics Tony Blair's Labour government had just been elected and the Conservatives booted out for the next 13 years. The UK seemed to be a permanent member of the European Union which was still only fourteen or so members.

PARITY was a successful litigating organisation with two stalwart officers in David Lindsey, who was legal advisor, and David Yarwood, Honorary Secretary.

During my time in office we have had notable litigating successes (eg: Bus passes) and importantly in bringing forward areas of discrimination (eg: Boys Education and Domestic Violence). We also changed the nature of PARITY in acquiring Charity Status subsequent to the law being changed. To do so we were forced to relinquish our efforts to equalise the access age for the State Pension (Old Age Pension) but this in fact has been achieved by the 1995 Pensions Act which is equalising (albeit also raising) the Pension age for men and women.

I also became "Chair" of PARITY instead of Chairman, this change caused some disruption among our membership but was desirable as a political matter.

Unusually for charities our financial position has improved, particularly over the last year or two, primarily as a result of a legacy from a former honorary secretary.

The Trustees have decided to realign our primary objectives; we are now prioritising boys education and domestic violence. The former is increasingly seen by us as an urgent priority; boys attainments are falling back due we believe to a number of complex causes among which, prominently, is a lack of male teachers (particularly in primary schools) and teaching methodology's. The social, economic and political ramifications are widespread and profound. PARITY believes that rectification should be an urgent Government priority.

We achieved some traction on this issue but much work remains to be done.

Finally, let me pay tribute and give my thanks to colleagues on the Trustee Board, particularly from the early years to the two David's and latterly to our relatively new honorary secretary Chandrakant Vaghela.

Very best wishes to all of you and to PARITY, John Mays.

(13th April 2019)

REX BOURNE – PROFILE AND STATEMENT TO MEMBERS

Rex Bourne has worked with young people during all of his adult life. He holds a level 3 qualification in Child Safeguarding and has achieved level 2 in Equality and Diversity & Business Studies. He has been a School Governor in both secondary and primary sectors (Chair for 5 years), totalling 32 years and co-led Sunday clubs for over 20 years. For many years he worked in media in TV, Press & Magazines and in Travel.

He has engaged in committees as follows:

- Board Member and a Special Trustee at The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) for 10 years;
- Chaired City University on User & Carer Involvement;
- Non-executive Director of Enfield PCT;
- Scholl Fund Board for 6 years;
- Co-chaired Curriculum re-validation at the School of Nursing & Midwifery at Bart's and the Royal London;
- Board Committees at Enfield PCT;
- Chaired Southgate Opera for 8 years;
- Chaired charity PHASCA for 7 years;
- New charity co-founder, 4-22 Foundation from January 2019;
- Board of PARITY from Autumn 2018, where he is working closely with the current chair John Mays on a range of issues.

His passions are improving services, meeting raised expectations and joint working with other organisations, improving outcomes, particularly in areas of deprivation. He led a successful campaign to build a £5.5 million Health Centre with Dental Department and Library in the deprived EN3 area, helping to deliver a workable funding formula, working with Councillors and the NHS.

Currently Rex has the following commitments:

- ➔ Working as a Lay chair carrying out Consultant interviews for Bart's Health and chairing panels, conducting interviews and career reviews for doctors in training for NHS England Education;
- ➔ Freelance Travel and Marketing Consultant;
- ➔ Continuing as a Volunteer at Chicken Shed Theatre;
- ➔ PLACE inspector at Great Ormond St Hospital;
- ➔ In his spare time he enjoys watching Racing, Grand Prix, listening to Jazz and Opera and occasional foreign holiday.

As a Trustee of PARITY, Rex is helping in the struggle for equality for men and becoming entrenched in important areas as Domestic Violence towards Men and in Boys' Education. He looks forward to advancing the strategic development of PARITY over future years, leading a very committed team.

AGM SPEAKER PROFILE - NEIL LYNDON

Born 1946, Neil Lyndon was, in 1965, the first pupil from a comprehensive school to be offered an unconditional place at a Cambridge college. Following university, he worked for underground papers, then the BBC and the Sunday Times. From 1984-1989, he was amanuensis and media and political advisor to the California businessman and Cold War go-between, Dr Armand Hammer. He then became a columnist for The Times, Sunday Times, Daily Mail, Sunday Telegraph and The Scotsman.

After 1989, the point at which his contribution to this book ends, Lyndon became the first writer in the world to publish articles and books which questioned the ideology of feminism from an egalitarian, non-sexist point of view. His 1992 book *No More Sex War: the Failures of Feminism* (republished in an unexpurgated, uncensored edition in 2014 in the anthology *Sexual Impolitics*) was the most reviled book in its own country in the second half of the twentieth century. Following its publication, Lyndon lost all his work as a journalist, was ostracised by friends, was bankrupted, lost his home and was estranged for years from his young son who had been abducted to Scotland by his chronically alcoholic mother, to whom the courts gave custody.

For 20 years, from 1994-2014, he was not allowed to write in British newspapers about any subject other than cars and motorbikes.

BRIEF REVIEW OF PARITY ACTIVITIES

Since the 2018 AGM, the Officers and Trustees have held six meetings, with an average attendance of seven persons.

Activities during the year have included further internal research on a range of issues and formal submissions made by PARITY (or with associated initiatives) to various authorities and organisations. These have included:

Single Sex Sessions Letters

Women only sessions: Unfortunately, with loss of Swayne O'Pie as a trustee, the project came to a halt.

DVA Services Report – London

Following the release of report to London MPs and others, it was also circulated to the London Boroughs. Significant replies were received from Shadow Chancellor, EHRC, MOPAC and Home Office with the following main points:

- Home Office funds the Men's Advice Line which provides support and advice to male victims of domestic abuse;
- Definition of domestic abuse is gender neutral and applies to both men and women and police tools such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) have been designed to protect all victims, regardless of their gender;

- Home Office held a focus group jointly with ManKind Initiative, to identify how we can develop and improve the support available to male victims. A framework of central funding currently supports local commissioners and service providers we have pledged £100 million in funding to support vital services such as national helplines;
- Local authorities will be given the maximum flexibility to apply for services that meet their local needs.
- After the publication of the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill, PARITY has made a submission to the consultative committee, sending copy of the DVA Report that we published.

Recruitment

Following our long search for a new chair that involved several rounds of interviews, we have finally recruited Rex Bourne, who wishes to be elected at the AGM. In addition, we recruited two Trustees, one who is our member and the other through the recruitment process.

PARITY Website

No significant changes, but updating with vacancies, News Briefing, etc continue to be undertaken by Ketan Shah.

2019 PARITY MEMBERSHIP

***PARITY** is one of few charities in the UK whose sole constitutional remit is to try to protect the equal rights of both men and women in our society. Our work is important despite ever more equality legislation which often creates unfairly new losers as well as winners. **PARITY** is run entirely by volunteers and is wholly dependent on subscriptions and donations to fund its work.*

Our subscription rate remains at minimum of £10 per annum.
(Concessionary rates for younger members in Education and those in hardship).

We hope therefore that you will join us or continue to support us, either by sending a cheque or completing a Standing Order Form. Please use the loose form enclosed and complete accordingly. Alternatively, you may pay online via DONATE button on our website with your Reference Number: your surname/ post code/ initials (if more than one member at the address). If you are a tax-payer, please do consider also signing the Gift Aid form.

In order to ease record keeping, it is hoped that members will agree to renew their subscriptions in future at the beginning of each calendar year rather than on their anniversary of joining.

Please therefore send in your renewal subscriptions for 2019 now.
(Please disregard this reminder if you have already renewed your membership for 2019 or pay by Standing Order.)

New members wanted. Ask your friends and family to join.

PARITY
Receipts & Payments Account
Year Ended 31 December 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	£	£
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Subscriptions	516	562
Donations	450	391
Gift Aid	412	61
Interest	2	2
Other	6989	0
Total Incoming Resources	<u>8369</u>	<u>1016</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>		
Newsletters	97	60
Annual General Meeting	598	762
Postage & Office Expenses	271	184
Travel	300	98
Website	37	284
Meetings & Conferences	206	91
Insurance	0	278
Recruitment	0	0
Other	184	143
Total Resources Expended	<u>1693</u>	<u>1900</u>
<u>Net Movement In Funds</u>	6676	-884
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>		
Total funds brought forward	5662	6546
Total funds carried forward	<u>12338</u>	<u>5662</u>

PARITY
Balance Sheet as at
31 December 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
	£	£
<u>Cash at bank and in hand</u>		
Santander	8350	1696
CAF Gold	3988	3966
In hand	0	0
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>12338</u>	<u>5662</u>
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>5662</u>	<u>5662</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by
John Mays
Chair of the Trustees

Examiners Comments

I have examined the Receipts & Payments Account and Balance Sheet and found them to be in accordance with the records of the charity.

Signed Paper Accounts will be available at the AGM or soft copy may be requested from Hon. Treasurer

THE DEATH OF CIVILISATION

Are we heading towards the death of civilisation, with schools at the steering wheel?

After recently reading some older articles which nevertheless still have merit, the question of just how important education is in determining the level of civilisation arose in my mind.

"the past is a foreign country and they do things differently there" [1]

The article casting a light on education in this foreign land is authored by E. G. West for the Institute of Economic Affairs in October 1994 and titled 'Education Without The State'. In the article West links governmental goals to education.

"Many scholars now conclude that the eventual dominant objective of

Table 1: Growth in Private Schooling, England and Wales, 1818-1858

Year	Population	Annual Average Growth rate of Population (%)	Number of Day Scholars	Annual Average Growth of Day Scholars (%)
1818	11,642,683	1.40	674,883	3.60
1833	14,386,415	1.47	1,276,947	3.16
1851	17,927,609		2,144,378	
1858	19,523,103	1.21	2,525,462	2.35

government school systems is not to promote the greatest happiness of parents or children, or the most efficient schooling, but to transfer wealth to educators." [2]

By examining the public misunderstanding about what schooling looked like before the Forster Act of 1870 introducing mandatory government schools into Britain, West exposes the myth that schools only existed sporadically before being mandated by government, in fact the economic benefits of education were well understood by parents and grandparents who paid for their off-springs' education and as population increased so participation doubled, i.e. 1% increase in population meant a 2% increase in education participation.

This was before it was made free, compulsory and supplied by the state, and as the Newcastle Commission 1861 made clear.

"almost everyone receives some amount of schooling at some period or another."

Migrating from a private fee paying system to an indirect payment using taxation results in the 'deadweight' cost of taxation being added, assumed in the 1990s amounting to at least 50% of the direct costs of that education, with no Forster Act, no deadweight costs so the expansion of education may have been quicker, wider, and cheaper being as there were a wealth of agencies providing education.

"The major 19th-century legislation came in 1870 with the Forster Act. Yet by 1869 most people in England and Wales were literate, most children were receiving a schooling and most parents, working class included, were paying fees for it."

The fluid, flexible, heterogeneous and competitive educational scenario of the pre-1870s was an environment that provides for innovation and puts the learner and parent choices first.

"As long as "school" refers to the traditional structure of buildings and grounds with services delivered in boxes called classrooms to which customers must be transported by car or bus, "school choice" will be unable to meaningfully alter the quality or efficiency of education."

Charlotte Thomson Iserbyt, Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), U.S. Department of Education, during the first term of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, exposed the hidden agenda for education in her seminal work 'the deliberate dumbing down of america' [3].

"Mrs. Iserbyt has also documented the gradual transformation of our once academically successful education system into one devoted to training children to become compliant human resources to be used by government and industry for their own purposes. This is how fascist-socialist societies train their children to become servants of their government masters."

For those who think this cannot happen in Britain then take a look at the Supreme Court judgement on the legality of the Scottish 'Named Person Scheme' [4].

"The first thing that a totalitarian regime tries to do is to get at the children, to distance them from the subversive, varied influences of their families, and indoctrinate them in their rulers' view of the world. Within limits, families must be left to bring up their children in their own way."
(Para. 73)

President of the Supreme Court, Baroness Hale also quoted from a US Supreme Court judgment which states:

"The child is not the mere creature of the state" (Para. 73).

Just as with the Manhattan Project, workers were nescient of what others were doing, we can see how the public sector, be it health, LA's, police, courts, work, benefits are all working independently to make the child a creature of the state. The emphasis on 'no child left behind' is explained by this quote from C.S. Lewis;

"Why you fool, it's the educated reader who can be gulled. All our difficulty comes with the others. When did you meet a workman who believes the papers? He takes it for granted that they're all propaganda and skips the leading articles....He's our problem. We have to recondition him. But the educated public, the people who read the high-brow weeklies, don't need reconditioning. They're all right already. They'll believe anything."

within governmental departments, permitting children to be left 'unconditioned' is not an option. The state funded schools and hence S.E.N. employ targeted conditioning programmes to scoop up the errant children who refuse to 'believe any old thing'. As C.S. Lewis also pointed out.

"Our ideal must be to find time for both education and training: our danger is that equality may mean training for all and education for none- that every one will learn commercial French instead of Latin, book-keeping

instead of geometry, and 'knowledge of the world we live in' instead of great literature. It is against this danger that schoolmasters have to fight, for if education is beaten by training, civilization dies. That is a thing very likely to happen."

...and has happened since the demise of the liberal arts, traditionally the bedrock of a classic British education, something for which we were once admired for from geographically foreign lands.

Conclusion

In conclusion then what we are witnessing is slow slide towards a world order as expressed by John Rockefeller "*I don't want a nation of thinkers, I want a nation of workers*". In a country where most of the highly skilled jobs have gone this can only leave despair and anger.

Between 2000 and 2020 the expenditure increase in schools will be 50 per cent, yet Headteachers are complaining that only £10 per pupil per year, in total, can be afforded to purchase essential items such as books and science equipment. Despite this increase in expenditure, leaving teachers constituting a minority of school staff (47.7 per cent), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has reported that functional illiteracy and innumeracy remained unchanged in Britain, seemingly confirming West's assertion that state schools are about transfer of wealth. [Where's the money gone?](#)

According to the (OECD) we are amongst the highest per-pupil spenders internationally but compared with comparatively poor countries such as Vietnam and, closer to home, Estonia, our children get poor value in return. The UK is up to three years behind the best education systems around the world. A BBC investigation in 2016 showed that the level of GCSE maths in the UK was around the level taught at primary school in South Korea (age 7 to 12). [6] and it's not even as if a shift to training away from education has borne fruit given employers' organisations are consistently complaining that at least a fifth of school leavers are unemployable.

Some remedies:

- ✓ **More focus on the liberal arts;**
- ✓ **More focus on parental choice of education model;**
- ✓ **More focus on parents role as primary providers of education;**
- ✓ **Abolish the department of Education;**
- ✓ **Promote the Rule of Law and British Constitution as British Values.**

Ref:

- [1] L.P. Hartley – The Go-Between (1953) [https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/L. P. Hartley](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/L._P._Hartley)
- [2] <https://egwestcentre.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/education-without-the-state.pdf>
- [3] <http://deliberatedumbingdown.com/ddd>
- [4] <https://no2np.org>
- [5] <https://www.thenewamerican.com/reviews/opinion/item/11904-why-ronald-reagan-couldnt-abolish-the-department-of-education>
- [6] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-38115296/southkorean-students-finish-welsh-gcse-maths-paper-in-15-minutes>

WAYS OF REACHING THE UNION JACK CLUB

STRICT SECURITY OPERATES AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING. MEMBERS ATTENDING SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE READY FOR INSPECTION ON ENTERING THE BUILDING SOME FORM OF PARITY IDENTITY SUCH AS THIS NOTICE.

MAIN LINE Train stations shown in bold, *Underground in italics*

Waterloo and **Waterloo East**: go to the main concourse of Waterloo Station and look for the exit to Waterloo Road. Sandell Street is on the opposite side of the road.

Paddington and **Marylebone**: take the *Bakerloo line to Waterloo*, exit to the Main Line Station and follow above directions.

Euston: take the *Northern Line (Charing Cross branch)* to Waterloo, exit to Main Line Station and follow above directions. See below for buses.

Kings Cross and **St Pancras**: exit Station on to Euston Road, turn right and walk short distance to **Euston** Station and follow directions from there. See below for buses.

Liverpool Street and **Victoria**: in each case take the *Circle line to Embankment* and change to *Bakerloo or Northern line to Waterloo*, exit to Main Line Station and follow above directions.

BY UNDERGROUND

Aim for **Waterloo**, which is on the following lines: *Bakerloo, Jubilee, and Northern (Charing Cross branch)*. Once at Waterloo, exit to the Main Line Station and follow above directions. Useful changing stations are *Embankment, Leicester Square, Oxford Circus, and Euston*.

BY BUS

Generally, take any bus going to **Waterloo Station** - alight at Station: Sandell Street is on left hand of Waterloo Road going south.

From **Euston Station**: take 59 or 68 bus direct to Waterloo Station from Bay B, Euston Bus Station at left front of main station

From **Kings Cross and St Pancras**: turn right and walk as far as and then left into Upper Woburn Place to stop M for buses 59, 68 and 168 direct to Waterloo Station.

Note

For those who live outside London, a National bus pass is valid in London throughout the week except for morning peak hours before 9.30 am on Mondays to Fridays (no restriction Bank Holiday Mondays).

We look forward to you joining us.

