



The Sheila McKechnie Foundation Awards 2009!

The Sheila McKechnie Foundation (SMK), the UK's only charity dedicated to supporting campaigners across a wide spectrum of issues launches its annual awards programme for campaigners on 1st April 2009, at the National Council for Voluntary Organisation's (NCVO) 'National Campaigning Conference 2009'.

The awards are given to individuals who show passion, tenacity and potential to create change for the better, or stop change that will make things worse – locally, nationally or globally.

We are searching throughout communities across the UK for people of all ages. You might not see yourself as a 'campaigner', and you might not have been doing it for very long, but if you are demonstrating commitment to a cause, SMK wants to hear from you.

"Unlike other Awards, a Sheila McKechnie Foundation Award is not just for what people have achieved, but for what they are going to achieve. Our awards have supported many individuals to take their campaigns to the next level. You might not think of yourself as a campaigner, but if you are trying to change something for the better, whether at a local or a global level, an SMK Award might be able to help you."

Linda Butcher, Chief Executive, SMK

The Awards equip campaigners with the skills needed to be more effective and bring about change, through one-to-one, coaching, mentoring and shadowing decision makers.

Closing date for entries to the Awards is Tuesday 30th June 2009.

To enter, visit www.sheilamckechnie.org.uk, or call 020 7700 8231.

The Sheila McKechnie Foundation E-Bulletin

Awards Launch 2009!

"supporting the next generation of campaigners"



CND Campaigner



Above is the promotional image used for the 2009 Young Activist Award.

Conflict Resolution

Working to promote security, stability and peace, this award is for campaigners who tackle the root causes of conflict and strive to bring people together.

This award is sponsored by the [Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust](#).

Consumer Action

The things we buy in the shops, the services we use whether in a hospital or a school are central to our lives. This award is for campaigners who are fighting to get a fair deal for all.

This award is sponsored by [Which?](#)

Environment

This award will highlight the hundreds of campaigners working to provide sustainable solutions to the environmental problems we face locally and globally.

This award is sponsored by [Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation](#).

Global Action

This award supports 18-24 year olds working towards global justice, challenging the root causes of world poverty, international conflict, environmental destruction or human rights abuses.

This award was established in 2007 in memory of Guy Hughes, an inspirational campaigner and activist who died tragically in a mountaineering accident on 28th January 2006.

This award is sponsored by David and Lynda Hughes, [BOND](#), and donations from friends and family of Guy through [Just Giving](#).

International

This award will recognise campaigners based outside of the UK in 52 countries in the global South, working to achieve social or environmental justice in their home countries. Click [here](#) to read the list of eligible countries.

The International award is sponsored by [The Sheila McKechnie Foundation](#)

International Young Campaigner

This **brand new** award recognises young campaigners up to the age of 24 years based outside of the UK in one of the 52 eligible countries (use above link). Global statistics paint a bleak picture of some of the challenges facing girls and young women growing up in the world's most impoverished regions. This award is targeted at young people campaigning on issues that will improve the lives of girls in their home countries.

This award is sponsored by [Plan UK](#)

London Social Justice

For London based campaigners tackling poverty and its root causes. This award is geared towards providing

solutions and opportunities to the problems facing the capital and its communities.

This award is sponsored by [City Parochial Foundation](#).

Rosa Women Creating Change

While many women do enjoy great freedom and success, that's simply not true for all women. **Brand new** for 2009, this award will recognise women in the UK who are creating change for the better, and working to help women to achieve equality and justice.

Sponsored by [Rosa UK](#).

Social Inclusion

Working to break down social barriers and maximise the opportunities open to all members of society, this award is for campaigners who are tackling social disadvantage and inequality.

This award is sponsored by [Shelter](#).

Transport

This award is for campaigners working anywhere in the UK to improve access at a local level or creating alternative solutions to meet the transport challenges of our time.

This award is sponsored by Dr Simon Norton.

Shout Out!

Shout Out! is an award for young campaigners aged 15-18, campaigning alone or in a group of up to 5 people. This is for young people living in London who are campaigning or thinking about starting a campaign about something which matters to them, whether it be gun and knife crime, recycling in schools or bullying. We want to empower young people to make a difference.

This award is sponsored by [The City Bridge Trust](#)

Young Activist

Young Activist supports young campaigners, aged 16-24, who are campaigning on a community focused issue with which they have a personal connection and/or feel strongly about. This Award is targeted at young people supported by The Foyer Federation, YMCAs and similar organisations, who have limited experience of campaigning but who have the drive and passion to change something in their community.

This award is sponsored by [YMCA England](#) and The [Foyer Federation](#).

To apply for an award please read through the information supplied on our [website](#) or ring Ruby Coote on 020 7700 8231 and we will post it to you.

If you are an organisation that sends out a newsletter or bulletin, and would like to send out information on the Awards to your readers, please email Ruby.coote@smk.org.uk and we will send you some text you can use along with pdf versions of the flyers.

Other news from SMK...



"Picking Strawberries in a student garden", a photo from the film "2 Angry Moms".

Our 2006 Consumer Action award winner Jackie Schneider has been busy organising a special screening of a campaigns related film entitled "2 Angry Moms". This film is about organising parents to take back control from the food industry and disinterested school boards. It shows how angry parents managed to connect with one another over the internet and unite around their common disdain for poor quality school food. This film will be shown at Wimbledon Odeon on 23rd April with a one off discussion with film director Amy Kalafa straight after. To read more about the film [click here](#).

The 2006 Consumer Action award was sponsored by [Which?](#)

In Glasgow, hundreds of fair-trade supporters gathered together in the Shawlands Co-op. 163 Bananas were eaten as part of the "Go Bananas" fair-trade event which happened across the UK on 7th March. [Read more](#)

Some of the older residents of the town of Sipson have said they will take whatever action is needed to stop their village being destroyed through airport expansion. Resident Lynne Davies has promised she will "consider anything and everything" to stop Sipson being bulldozed. [Read more](#)

April 1st saw thousands of protestors take to the streets of London ahead of the G20 meetings. Campaigners came to support a range of issues from job losses to climate change. Protests remained predominantly peaceful, yet some violence occurred when windows were broken at the front of the Royal Bank of Scotland. [Read more.](#) Click here to read about the "[Put people First!](#)" march which took place on Saturday 18th March 2009.



Protesters, 1st April 2009

Recent Workshops organised by SMK...



Linda Butcher with attendees at the SMK environment workshop.



From left to right, Liz Snook, Sarah Lewis and Joss Garman.

SMK Environment Campaign Workshop **"making a world of difference":** 19th March 2009.

Environmental campaigners from a range of organisations came together for this workshop to learn and hear from experienced environmental campaigners. SMK would like to thank Tim Helweg-Larsen ([PIRC](#)), Joss Garman ([Greenpeace](#)), Liz Snook ([Plane Stupid](#)) and Sarah Lewis (freelance environmental journalist) for their contributions to the workshop.

An article about this workshop will soon be appearing in the magazine "[The Ecologist](#)".

This workshop was supported by [Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation](#).

Glasgow Campaigns Workshop: This workshop took place on 20th March 2009. SMK was delighted to involve Anne McLaughlin MSP as a key speaker. She has only recently gained her seat as a Glasgow MSP, but had gained popularity and notice through her political blogging: "Indy gal". Read her blog [here](#).

Attendees were pleased to get advice around how to use the media in their campaigns (thanks to Severin Carrel, Scottish correspondent for The Guardian). Thanks also to facilitators Shamin Akhtar and Selma Rahman.

The Scottish laws that affect campaigning are different to those in England and Wales, and SMK will be ensuring these distinctions form part of the roll out of information on our new campaigning micro-site "Campaign Central", which is due to be launched on 29th of April 09.

This workshop was supported by [The Baring Foundation](#), and run by SMK, it delivered introductory skills in strategic planning and influencing to under-resourced, novice campaigners and frontline service delivery organisations.



Glasgow MSP Anne McLaughlin speaks to campaigners at the Glasgow campaigning workshop.

Upcoming Events...



SMK's new online resource for campaigners "campaign central" will be live from the 29th April 09!

Cambridge Campaigning Workshop, 24th April 2009. To book a place on this workshop please email Ruby.coote@smk.org.uk.

This workshop is run by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation and supported by the Baring Foundation. It delivers introductory skills in strategic planning and influencing to under-resourced, novice campaigners and frontline service delivery organisations.

April 29th- SMK's official Launch of its new online resource for campaigners, "**Campaign Central**". This site will provide online support for campaigners, including information on the laws around campaigning, advice on campaign strategy and planning, media, politics and commentary on campaign films and materials. It will also contain a unique section which will allow campaigners to create their own "campaign profiles", which they can then use to promote their campaign and network with other campaigners around the UK.

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