
Speaker biographies



Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Member of Parliament for
Preseli Pembrokeshire

Stephen was first elected MP for his home constituency of Preseli Pembrokeshire in 2005. He was educated at state schools in Wales and Scotland, and at Bristol University and London Business School.

Prior to being elected Stephen was a marketing consultant and had previously worked in communications and policy roles with London Chamber of Commerce and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services.

As a backbencher in Parliament, Stephen served on the Welsh Affairs, International Development and Treasury Select Committees. Following the 2010 election he was made a Government Whip in the Coalition Government and was promoted in September 2012 to Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales. In July 2014 he was promoted to the Cabinet as Secretary of State for Wales. He later served as Secretary of State for Department for Work and Pensions.

Stephen takes a strong interest in international development and believes firmly in the importance of the UK's role overseas. From 2010 to 2012 he led Project Umubano, the Conservative Party's social action project in Rwanda and Sierra Leone. He also takes a strong interest in welfare related issues and how we best tackle poverty. In September 2017 Stephen was elected to the House of Commons Brexit Committee. In January 2020 Stephen was elected as chair of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee.



Gurpreet Narwan
Economics Correspondent,
The Times

Gurpreet is the economics correspondent at The Times, where she has worked since 2016. She writes about the big economic forces shaping our lives and livelihoods, from Brexit to the pandemic and everything in between.



Helen Barnard
Director,
Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Helen is Director at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Helen has worked across policy and analysis at JRF, most recently leading the policy and partnerships team to develop new solutions to solve poverty and prior to that, building the first iteration of JRF's monitoring and analysis team, examining the key social, economic and public policy trends and changes affecting people and places in poverty.

Helen joined the Foundation in 2005 as a Policy and Research Manager. She has developed and led programmes of research and policy focusing on child poverty, labour markets, poverty and ethnicity, destitution and education. Before joining the Foundation she worked at BMRB Social Research and Opinion Leader Research, carrying out research on topics including benefits, tax credits and tax, education, and housing.

Helen studied Social and Political Sciences at Clare College, Cambridge University. She is a commissioner for the Social Metrics Commission and sits on the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board and the Timewise Innovation Unit Advisory Board.



Peter Matejic
Deputy Director, Evidence and
Impact,
Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Peter is deputy director of Evidence and Impact with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. He leads the team providing the knowledge-base to underpin and assess JRF's outcome plans and real-world impact. Before joining JRF, Peter worked for almost 20 years in the Civil Service where he led on a number of issues, involving leading on poverty analysis and the Government's annual poverty statistics.