



CELEBRATING
30 YEARS
OF CIRCLES OF SUPPORT
& ACCOUNTABILITY



Friday 8th November 2024
Friends House, Euston, London

EVENT PROGRAMME

09:00	Arrival, registration and refreshments
10:00	Event opening - Nigel Barnes, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Circles UK
10:10	Keynote address – ‘Stigmatising attitudes and why we should work with perpetrators of sexual abuse’ - Sir Terry Waite KCMG CBE
10:40	Keynote address – ‘Reflections on the first Circle for Charlie Taylor in Ontario, Canada and Circles today’ - Revd Harry Nigh
11:10	Q&A session
11:20	Break and refreshments
11:40	‘How Circles came from Canada to the UK. Thoughts on the first pilot Circles, key developments and Circles today’ - Donald Findlater, Lucy Faithfull Foundation and Becky Saunders, Circles South East
12:10	‘Circles in Europe’ - Dr. Mechtild Höing, Marijke Bijlsma (Circles Netherlands), and Ann Castrel (Circles Belgium)
12:40	Panel discussion – Circles Volunteers, facilitated by Prof. Nadia Wager, Teeside University
13:10	Q&A session
13:20	Lunch
14:20	Geese Theatre Company performance
15:20	‘The Core Member experience of a Circle’ – Circles Core Member (via video)
15:35	‘The Circles Coordinator experience – input from a survivor - Coordinator’ – Abby Andrews
16:00	Panel discussion – ‘Challenges and opportunities for Circles’ facilitated by Simon Bailey CBE, QPM, DL, Trustee of Circles UK
16:25	Thanks and closing comments - Riana Taylor, CEO, Circles UK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Sir Terry Waite

KCMG CBE

For most of his life, Terry Waite has worked in the area of international affairs and had worked in most of the world's conflict zones. As a young man, whilst living in Uganda, he negotiated directly with the late General Amin for the release of hostages, and as a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's private staff, was successful in aiding the freeing of hostages in Iran, Libya and Beirut.



It was in Beirut that he was captured and spent almost five years in solitary confinement.

In the apartheid years, he worked closely with Bishop Desmond Tutu and has continued his work for the disadvantaged in South Africa. He was a joint founder of Y-Care, an agency working for the development of young people throughout the world.

He is Lifelong Patron of Emmaus for the homeless and a joint founder of Hostage UK, now Hostage International.

He has written several books ranging from a serious account of his years in captivity, to a book of poetry and reflections. He is both an Anglican and a member of the Society of Friends.

He is the recipient of several Honorary degrees and is an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Hall Cambridge. He was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George in 2023.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Revd Harry Nigh

Harry Nigh brings almost 50 years of ministry with prisoners and ex-prisoners.



He served for 14 years as the Director of M2/W2 in Ontario. In 1994, he helped create the first Circle of Support and Accountability in Hamilton for a man who had a long history of sexual offending.

From 2003 to 2014 he served as Toronto Community Chaplain for Correctional Services Canada, and in that time helped form Dismas Fellowship for ex-prisoners and friends. Currently a network of 11 Dismas Fellowships have been planted throughout Ontario.



He and his wife Shirley live in Hamilton where they dote on two granddaughters.

About Circles

Circles of Support and Accountability ('Circles') are a community-based approach for the reduction of sexual harm. Circles provide a proactive, preventative and interpersonal approach to working with people who sexually harm others, to address their harmful behaviour.

2024 marks 30 years since the first Circle was formed in Canada. Since their inception, Circles have played a crucial role in supporting the risk management of people convicted of sexual offences, thereby making communities safer. Circles also provide much needed support for people after a prison sentence to ensure safe reintegration into their communities.

Circles UK

circles-uk.org.uk

Circles UK was established in 2008 to oversee the provision of Circles in England and Wales and is part-funded by the Ministry of Justice.

CirclesEurope

circleseurope.eu

CirclesEurope supports Circles of Support and Accountability Providers throughout Europe and provides a platform for exchange of knowledge and good practices in Europe and beyond.

Circles are provided in the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Latvia, Italy, Spain, Catalonia, Norway and Sweden.

Circles South East

circlessoutheast.org.uk

Circles South West

circles-southwest.org.uk

Circles North

nepacs.co.uk

Circles Cymru

adferiad.org

Lucy Faithfull Circles

lucyfaithfull.org.uk/circles-of-support-and-accountability.htm

Humbercare Circles

humbercare.org.uk

Thank You

The provision of Circles is only possible with the generous and ongoing support of numerous commissioners, grant giving bodies, funders and individual donors.

Circles Providers within the UK and across Europe depend on this crucial support to deliver services with the help of teams of Volunteers.

On behalf of Circles UK and CirclesEurope, we would like to thank our supporters and Volunteers for their ongoing belief in our work and for helping us deliver 30 years of impact.

Just some of our influential supporters include:

- **Ministry of Justice**
- **Police services**
- **Probation and Correctional Services**
- **Police and Crime Commissioners**
- **European Commission**
- **The European Union**
- **Charitable trusts and foundations**
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