

## Press Release

Date: Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 – Embargo: immediate.

### **Joyce McMillan enters the environmental theatre - as the new LINK President**

Scottish Environment LINK today welcomed Joyce McMillan, Scottish theatre critic, journalist and commentator, as their new President.

Speaking at the LINK AGM in Dunblane, Joyce commented:

**“I am delighted to take up this position and to start working with Scotland’s environmental network. I am looking forward to playing a part in helping to move Scotland closer to a sustainable future in terms of our economy, society and environment, and to supporting Environment LINK in its vital work of encouraging innovative, well-grounded and practical policy thinking on these issues across Scottish public life.**

**“In a country with Scotland's exceptional resources of land, people and energy, the possibilities are immense, and I hope Environment LINK will continue to play a key role in putting the future of our natural environment and resources at the heart of our political, social and creative thinking, in Scotland and beyond.”**

Speaking of her growing awareness, over a number of years, of the importance of environmental issues to society and the economy, Joyce added:

**“The environment underpins all of our lives, and it will be fascinating to help to make new connections in the minds of people and politicians. This is a vital task.”**

Helen Todd, LINK Chair added:

**“It is a pleasure to be able to welcome Joyce as our new President. Her skills and experience will be invaluable as we pursue our aims of improving Scotland’s environment and working together with ever-growing numbers of people and organisations across the land. ”**

Joyce follows Ross Finnie (former MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment) as President of LINK, and may serve up to a three year term.

**ENDS**

**For further information, contact:** Andy Myles, Advocacy Manager, Tel: 07834 485 760.

#### **Editors’ Notes**

(1) Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 35 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. LINK is a Scottish Charity (SC000296) and a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee (SC250899). LINK is core funded by Membership Subscriptions and by grants from Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Government and Charitable Trusts.

[www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

(2) Joyce McMillan was born in Renfrewshire in 1952, and educated at Paisley Grammar School and St. Andrews University. She has been a journalist, theatre critic and political commentator for more than 30 years, writing for The Scotsman, Scotland On Sunday, The Herald and The Guardian, and broadcasting regularly on BBC Radio Scotland and Radio 4. In the 1990's, she chaired the Constitutional Commission, a sub-committee of the Scotland's Constitutional Convention, and in 1997-99 she was part of the Scottish Office Consultative Steering Group on structures and procedures for the new Scottish Parliament. From 2001-2004 she was Convener of the Scottish Civic Forum, and is a member of the Advisory Council of the Hansard Society, the London-based think tank specialising in parliamentary democracy. Throughout her working life, she has been involved in both Scottish and international campaign for peace, democracy and human rights; she holds an honorary degree of D. Litt. from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, for her services to Scottish theatre, and from 2006-2010 was a visiting professor in the University's department of theatre and creative industries.

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