

Women in Journalism Scotland announce the Nicola Barry prize

Scotland's new organisation for women in media has launched an award celebrating one of our country's finest female writers. The Nicola Barry Award, which aims to encourage the kind of brilliant reporting and campaigning journalism that the award-winning columnist and feature writer was known for, was launched by Barry's husband, Alastair Murray.



Nicola Barry Sunday Express Mug Pic Rosco

Murray made the announcement at Women in Journalism Scotland's End-of-Summer Party on Thursday 28 September, at EY, 5 George Square, Glasgow, G2 1DY.

The winner will receive a trophy, presented at the Scottish Press Awards dinner next spring. A WiJ Scotland member will be part of the judging panel.

Nicola Barry was one of Scotland's most successful and best known journalists and authors, driven by a passion to help the underdog and to give a voice to those who had none. She died in January 2017 at the age of 66.

The award rounds off a hugely successful first year for Women in Journalism Scotland, the new networking, campaigning, training and social organisation open to women journalists at all ages and stages of their careers who work across all the written, broadcast and new media in Scotland.

The award marks WiJ Scotland's commitment to encouraging and supporting more women writers like Nicola Barry.



Nicola Barry Sunday Express Mug Pic Rosco

Shelley Jofre, BBC Scotland's health correspondent and co-

chair of WiJ Scotland, said: “The unveiling of this new Award rounds off an amazing first year for WIJ Scotland. Since our launch by the First Minister last November, our membership continues to grow. We’ve had a series of successful events over the year aimed at helping boost the skills and confidence of women journalists across Scotland.

“With our continuing “Stronger Voice for Women on Air” training, we are creating an easy-to-access database of women experts we hope will become the essential go-to guide for all broadcasters in Scotland. The aim is to banish once and for all the dreaded “manel” of experts where women’s voices are scandalously absent.

“As recent research by our sister organisation WIJ in London has found, there’s still plenty of work to do. We may make up half the population but the vast majority of front page news stories in UK newspapers are still written by men; on average two thirds of senior jobs are still done by men. And a light has finally been shone on the unjustifiable gender pay gap that persists across press and broadcasting.

“As an organisation, we will continue to lobby for change and, most importantly, offer support for women journalists at every stage of their career.”



Launching the award, Barry’s husband, Alastair Murray, said: “One editor told me that my wife was the greatest feature writer of her generation and I do not think anyone in the world of Scottish journalism would disagree with that.”

John McLellan, director of the Scottish Newspaper Society, said: “Nicola was a very special talent and her particular empathy for the dispossessed, vulnerable and excluded came out in everything she wrote. The SNS is delighted to be working with Women in Journalism to encourage new female writers and to keep Nicola’s memory alive.”