



# The Benefits of Social Business

## launch event

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**Date & time:**

**Wednesday 9 May 2018, 17:30 for 18:00**

Please see email for joining instructions for parliament.

We recommend leaving at least 30 minutes to clear security.

The panel event will take place from **18:00 to 19:00**

A drinks reception will follow until **20:00**

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**Venue:**

**Grimond room** (panel); **Attlee Suite** (drinks reception)

Portcullis House, Westminster, London, SW1A 2LW. Map linked [here](#)

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**Running order:**

Introducing event

**James Kirkup**, Director, Social Market Foundation

Chair

**Dharshini David**, Business Presenter, BBC Radio 4 Today

Panellists

**Guy Opperman MP**, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions & Financial Inclusion

**Phillip Ullmann**, Chief Energiser, Cordant Group

**Errol Cohen**, Partner, Le Play Avocats, and expert in social business in France

**Eleanor Mills**, Editorial Director, The Sunday Times

**17:45** - Panellists arrive at Grimond room (please allow at least 30 minutes to clear security).

**18:00** - James Kirkup welcomes guests, introduces topic, sets out the problem, and outlines at a high-level the solution, then introduces Dharshini David.

**18:07** - Dharshini David – gives overview of social business today, and outlines how the panel discussion will work.

**18:12** - Dharshini David invites each panellist, including Phillip, to give a 1 minute introduction, explaining who they are, and an overview of their position on social business as a solution to manage capitalism's current issues, providing a solution for the fairer distribution of our society's wealth.

**18:18** - Dharshini David chairs a conversation with panellists and the audience, asking three overarching questions (listed below), seeking an agreed outcome and agreed next steps agreed by panellists by the close.

**18:58** - Dharshini David thanks panellists and audience, closes event, and reminds people to head to the Attlee Suite along the corridor for a drinks reception.

**19:00** - Speakers and attendees head to Attlee Suite for drinks reception.

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**Contacts on the day:**

Laura Webb, Events and Partnerships Manager; 07502048969

Hannah Murphy, Events Officer; 07495592370

**Theme for discussion** The theme for discussion is: Social Business is the key to manage capitalism's current issues, providing a solution for the fairer distribution of our society's wealth.

## **Overview**

At this event the Social Market Foundation and Cordant Group will launch a paper discussing the benefits of social business, and the role it can play in creating a fair and robust market economy.

The paper is authored by Phillip Ullmann, Chief Energiser at Cordant Group, a recruitment company employing over 125,000 people, which converted from a business to a social enterprise in 2017.

Social businesses make a profit and simultaneously invest some of that wealth into social impact initiatives to create a fairer society, presenting fertile ground for timely conversations about practical solutions to improve the health of our economy as a whole.

At the event, panellists and audience members will discuss the benefits, opportunities and challenges for business as it considers this social transformation and its implications.

## **Format**

The panel discussion will be extremely pacy, with a lot of ground to cover in a short period of time. Therefore, each panellist including Phillip Ullmann will be given one minute at the top of the discussion to introduce themselves and their views on social business.

From there, Dharshini David will chair an interactive discussion covering the following questions, drawing in panellists and questions and comments from the audience. The session will aim to agree outcomes and next steps for the future of social business by the close.

## **Timings**

**Question 1** – What are the conditions that must prevail in organisations to enable them to ensure that people live happy and meaningful lives? (10 minutes)

**Question 2** – How can society ensure that every type of organisation evolves into a social business? (10 minutes)

**Question 3** – What changes need to take place for this to happen in practice? And whose responsibility is it to ensure those changes take place – businesses, shareholders, government, or others? (10 minutes)

## **Biographies**

### **James Kirkup, Director, Social Market Foundation**

James Kirkup is the Director of the SMF. James Kirkup studied politics at Edinburgh University and began his career in journalism at The Scotsman in 1997. He later covered European politics and economics for Bloomberg News, moving to Westminster in 2001. He returned to The Scotsman as Political Editor and columnist before joining the Telegraph in 2007. He was Political Editor of the Telegraph and then Executive Editor – Politics, overseeing and writing commentary and analysis on politics, policy and economics.

### **Dharshini David, Business Presenter, BBC Radio 4 Today (Chair)**

Dharshini David is a broadcaster, economist and author who has extensive experience as a keynote speaker and conference chair.

Dharshini is a presenter of financial programmes, who has fronted shows across the BBC and Sky News. She's a highly experienced business and economics journalist who is as comfortable at analysing and debunking economic developments as she is probing business leaders about their accounts. Recruited by the BBC initially as an economics correspondent for national news bulletins, she went on to present Panorama and the BBC's Wall Street coverage from New York as the financial crisis took hold. A versatile broadcaster, she also presents general and political news programmes, and co-presented Sky's flagship "Sky News Tonight" programme alongside Adam Boulton.

Her career has included working as an economist in the City, where she was HSBC Investment Bank's UK Economist, and government. She has also spent time advising Tesco's board, and its then CEO Sir Terry Leahy, on broadcast media strategy.

Dharshini has recently published her first book "The Almighty Dollar" which explains in accessible terms the economic foundations that underpin the modern world. Now freelance, Dharshini provides economic commentary on domestic and international issues across a range of print, broadcast and specialist outlets and is a presenter for several programmes including Today on Radio 4.

She has extensive experience as a keynote speaker and chair of financial conferences and other events, from women in leadership forums to literature festivals. She is adept at managing panel discussions and conducting on-stage interviews.

### **Guy Opperman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions & Financial Inclusion**

Guy Opperman MP is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions and Financial Inclusion. Guy was first elected to be the Member of Parliament for Hexham at the 2010 General Election and re-elected in 2015 with an increased majority. Guy has an Honours Degree in Law from the University of Buckingham and a first class diploma from the University of Lille, France. Guy was called to the Bar in 1989 and spent 20 years as a barrister – 15 years of which were spent predominantly at the criminal bar. Guy prosecuted and defended in a number of murder and rape trials, as well as in numerous Crown Court trials. He served as a Director of his family engineering business until 2009.

While a barrister, he did many years of pro bono work with the Western Circuit Free Representation Unit and the Bar Pro Bono Unit, providing free legal assistance in hundreds of cases on behalf of Victim Support and the Citizens Advice Bureau. He was named 'Lawyer of the Week' by The Times in 2007, and was awarded the Bar Pro Bono Award by the then Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith QC, for his voluntary work on behalf of victims in Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals. In 2009 the then Attorney General, Baroness Scotland QC, presented him with a Pro Bono Hero award in the House of Commons for his work on preventing hospital closures. He is

now a "door tenant" at 3PB and is no longer in active practice at the Bar having committed to being a full-time MP.

Guy first got interested in national politics after giving up his time as a barrister for free to lead a campaign to fight the closure of Savernake NHS Hospital, which he credited with saving his mother's life from cancer. In September 2012 Guy was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Immigration Minister, in the Home Office. He then became an Assistant Whip and was promoted to Government Whip and Lord Commissioner of HM Treasury in July 2016. Following the 2017 General Election Guy was appointed as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Pensions and Financial Inclusion at the Department for Work and Pensions.

### **Phillip Ullmann, Chief Energiser, Cordant Group**

Phillip Ullmann is the Executive Chairman of Cordant Group, the UK's second largest recruitment and services firm with revenues of £840 million employing 125,000 people. Known internally as the Chief Energiser, Phillip has been responsible for driving the business forward since joining in 1996. This has been achieved through a series of acquisitions and organic growth but also by hiring highly talented people in key roles. As the original architect of the Social Enterprise at Cordant, it is now a vision owned just as much by the board and the senior management. Phillip has an Engineering degree from Cambridge University, an MBA from Brunel and is a qualified Chartered Accountant.

### **Eleanor Mills, Editorial Director, The Sunday Times and Editor, Sunday Times Magazine**

Eleanor Mills is Editorial Director of The Sunday Times, Editor of The Sunday Times Magazine and used to write a weekly column in the News Review section of the paper on social affairs. She has been shortlisted as Feature Writer of the Year at the UK Press Awards. A passionate advocate of equality and keen feminist, she is also Chair of Women in Journalism. Publications include: Cupcakes and Kalashnikovs: 100 Years of the Best Journalism by Women, which is on the A level syllabus. She is on the board of the New York based Centre for Talent Innovation think tank and is a trustee of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund (JDRF). She appears regularly on TV and radio and lives in London with her husband and two daughters.

### **Errol Cohen, Lawyer and expert in social business in France**

Errol Cohen is a qualified lawyer, member of the Paris (since 1996) and Brussels Bars. He graduated from the University of Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne with a Master in Business Law and Economics and from the University of Paris II Assas, with a Master of Industrial Property. He has also lectured in civil and commercial law at the University of Paris I and at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce. He is also a member of the "Economy, Man and Society" department of the Collège des Bernardins, as well as the reflection group of the Ecole des Mines de Paris and his "Theory of Business" Chair. He is specialized in business law/ tax, franchising law, IP/ IT in France and abroad. He works on the development of mission companies and in social enterprises and economic law. He collaborates in the creation and development of the "SOSE" – extended social purpose company. He founded the law firm. He founded the firm Le Play Avocats in 2007 with Robert Simpson.