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club

2010 World Press Freedom Day Debate Programme

Friday, 9 April 2010 (9:30 – 12:30 GMT)
Frontline Club, 13 Norfolk Place, London W2 1QJ

09.30 – 10.00	Tea and coffee served
10.00	All Seated
10.00 – 10.05	Presentation of the winner of the 2010 WPFJ Student Journalism Competition by Harry Reeves OBE, Secretary General of the UK National Commission for UNESCO
10.05 – 10.10	Introductory remarks by Vaughan Smith, Founder and Managing Director of the Frontline Club
10.10 – 10.15	Welcome and Introduction by William Horsley, debate Chair
10.15 – 10.20	Screening of 'debate primer' video on unregulated political comment online
10.20 – 10.26	Proposer 1: Sir Robert Worcester, Founder of MORI; Chancellor, University of Kent
10.26 – 10.32	Opposer 1: Caroline Thomson, Chief Operating Officer, BBC
10.32 – 10.45	Reactions from the audience invited
10.45 – 10.51	Proposer 2: Sunny Hundal, Liberal Conspiracy
10.51 – 10.57	Opposer 2: Prof Steven Barnett, University of Westminster
10.57 – 11.45	Reactions from audience invited, named speakers called upon <i>Named speakers (not in speaking order)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Paul Bradshaw, Birmingham City University; Online Journalism Blog (OJB)▪ Nicholas Jones, Author, previously BBC
11.45 – 11.50	Summary of arguments
11.50 – 11.55	Vote on the Motion: unregulated political comment online helps the democratic process
11.55 – 12.00	Conclusion of the Debate
12.00	Debate closes
12.00 -12.30	Tea and coffee served

Debate Format

Today's debate adopts its format from an Oxford Union Debate. Proceedings aim to inform and persuade through the skills of debating on a particular view. As such, Oxford Union debates allow speakers to argue against their own personal convictions. A good deal of participation from the floor is encouraged, with the proceedings concluding with a vote on the Motion: "This House believes that **unregulated political comment online helps the democratic process.**"

There will be four panel speakers and two interventions from named speakers from the floor. Interventions and contributions from the audience will be moderated by the Chair, who will be keeping time very strictly to ensure adequate audience participation and discussion.