# About Marion Gibbs



Marion Rae Gibbs (29 July 1964 to 7 December 2022) was at the very centre of Scotland's housing sector. For over 30 years, her life's work was focused on those in the most housing need; people affected by homelessness, overcrowding and those in unsuitable, unsafe or temporary accommodation. Marion cared deeply for those issues, but heartily resisted any maudlin or sentiment around it. She was driven instead by a sense of equality and fairness, by what’s right. She was a leading champion for how good law and policy should be used to protect, defend and enable people.

Marion was born in Aberdeen and remained proud of her home city (and football club), even though Glasgow became her home for the last 30 years of her life. She studied Maths and Sociology at Aberdeen. Although the Maths Department begged her to continue her studies, Sociology was her calling. A Professor pointed out that every option Marion picked in her studies was connected to housing. That was the start of a journey that lasted throughout her professional life.

After a gap year to allow her to take up a role as president of the Student Union Management Committee in Aberdeen, Marion went to Heriot-Watt to do her post graduate diploma in housing. She thoroughly enjoyed her time and always reflected on how it had given her the opportunity to gain the practical knowledge on which to build a career. Her first job was in local government back in the northeast of Scotland then she moved to Glasgow to work for Shelter Scotland. Posts followed in network organisations, as a regulator, an expert consultant and since 2009 in Scottish Government. Through all of this Marion had an encyclopaedic knowledge that ranged from legislation and policy to history of social housing, to modern methods of construction and contemporary regulations. But most of all – an unrivalled ‘who’s who’ knowledge of the housing sector, and the broadest network of people from across the housing world for whom she had the deepest regard.

In her all too short life Marion made an indelible contribution to the world of housing and homelessness and her passion, commitment and determination will not be forgotten. Her diploma allowed her to do all that and she would be delighted to know that her legacy will live on and that through this support fund she will make it easier for others to benefit from the opportunities she had so that they in turn can go on to carry her torch and make a difference in this world.

Marion is survived by her loving partner, mother, sister, brother-in-law and nephews and niece. All of them wish you luck in your studies and career and hope that this fund makes life just a little easier for you.