

# FiLiA 2023- Access Guide

## Getting to the Venue

### Address

The Conference will be held at Platform Glasgow, 253 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G2 8DL. The venue's website can be found [here](#).

### Trains

The nearest train station is Glasgow Central and the venue is about 0.2miles away from the main entrance/exit.

### Parking

No parking is available at the venue or in the streets nearby, this includes Blue Badge parking. There are car parks available within a short distance from the venue.

### Taxi Drop-Off

Taxis can drive up to the front door and drop passengers off.

## Your Access Team

The Access Team for Glasgow '23 is made up of Marie, Jenny and Sharon who will be available at the Access Registration Desk at the times listed below or via the access section of [The Conversation](#). The team will be wearing green volunteer t-shirts so we will be easily identifiable. If you have any questions that you would like to ask or anything you would like to discuss privately, please email the team on [inclusion@filia.org.uk](mailto:inclusion@filia.org.uk).

## Venue

### Venue Acoustics

Please be aware that the venue layout means that sound will travel. There could be background noise during the sessions and with the large number of women using the space, assume that there will always be background noise so please prepare accordingly if you need to.

### Access for Wheelchair Users

There is a ramp at the entrance door to facilitate access to the Reception Arch. All doorways allow unrestricted access for wheelchair/mobility scooter users.

### Lighting

Lighting in the venue is operated via a series of sensors. Please be assured that there will be lighting throughout all areas of the Conference.

## Familiarity with the Venue

Click [here](#) to find 360-degree videos of the different spaces within the venue. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the videos.

## Accessible Toilets

Accessible toilets are available throughout the venue and can be identified on the venue map.

## Under Bar Space

We are very sorry to share that the Under Bar Space is inaccessible to wheelchair users and women who are unable to use the stairs. The lift at the venue has broken down and will not be available for the conference weekend. Wherever possible, we are arranging for duplicate sessions so that there will still be an opportunity to attend. Please see the conference agenda which will be kept up to date with all sessions.

## The Sanctuary

### The Sanctuary

There will be a designated space known as 'The Sanctuary' for women who need time out for any reason. However, please note that due to the acoustics of the venue, there will be a low level of unavoidable background noise. The room will be made as comfortable as possible for rest and relaxation. There will be comfortable seating available and we request that 'The Sanctuary Rules' are adhered to.

### The Sanctuary Rules

The Sanctuary is designed for women who need some time out.

In the room you can take some time to read, meditate or just close your eyes and allow your senses to recalibrate, rest and recuperate as much as possible.

You can stay for as long as you need to while remembering that other women will need to take some time out in this shared space too.

If you'd like to chat, eat or do anything that involves not being quiet(!) there are other spaces around the venue or outside that are perfect for you. Please ask one of the volunteers if you need more information about the spaces available.

Please respect The Sanctuary, keep it tidy and enjoy your time out.

Thank You!

## Supporting You During The Conference

### Will you be offering lanyards to women with access requirements this year?

No, we won't be having specific lanyards linked to access. Our aim is that your access needs have been considered and you will find the answers you need here. You can contact members of the Access Team via The Conversation or privately through our email address: [inclusion@filia.org.uk](mailto:inclusion@filia.org.uk)

### Will it be easy to find my way around the venue?

We hope so, yes! There will be signage around the venue and there will be printed maps available in standard and large print. You can ask any of the volunteers for support in directing you around the different spaces and both CVENT and The Conversation will have information to support you in navigating the space.

### Will there be an Access Registration Desk this year?

Yes! Your Access Team will be working closely with the Registration Team to ensure that all volunteers are able to support you when you are registering. The Access Registration desk is designed for women who need additional support to move through the registration process. It is not restricted to women who have made us aware of access requirements, it's open to any guest who needs support for access reasons.

### Access Registration Desk opening times

- Friday – 8am-1pm
- Saturday – 8am-12md
- Sunday – 8am-9am

### Are assistance dogs welcome?

Assistance dogs are welcome and must have been included with your details by ticking the box when booking your ticket. While we understand and respect the importance of therapy dogs, we are only able to welcome assistance dogs into the conference.

### British Sign Language

British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreters will be working at the Conference and we are in conversation with women who need this service to ensure the team are available for them. Sessions that will have BSL Interpreters will be detailed next to the session information.

### Speech to Text

Speech to text will be available in the main room.

### Hearing Loop

There is a hearing loop available in the main arch and you will need to switch to the 't' setting to use it. If you do not have the 't' setting and require further information please contact [inclusion@filia.org.uk](mailto:inclusion@filia.org.uk).

### Reserved Seating

There will be reserved seating in all of the sessions. These seats will have 'reserved' signs on them and the volunteers in each space will be able to signpost you to where these are. The seats will be in different areas of each session so that seating is available near the BSL interpreter, near the exit, on the end of some rows and at the front, catering for different access needs. We understand that some women might need longer to access these seats and they will remain available for fifteen minutes after a session has started before being made available to anyone who would like to join the session.

Please note that you just need to speak with the volunteer supporting the session you would like to attend and ask for one of the reserved accessibility seats within fifteen minutes of the session starting.

### Mobility Aid/Buggy Storage

Storage for mobility aids/buggies is available in the cloakroom and they will be left at your own risk. The door to the cloakroom area is 850mm wide. Please contact [inclusion@filia.org.uk](mailto:inclusion@filia.org.uk) if you have any questions about storage.

### Lunch

We have added an additional thirty minutes to the lunch break this year so there's 1.5hrs for lunch.

### Ventilation

The venue is under railway arches on street level and is not underground as some of the images might suggest. There is a complex Air Handling system in place in Arches 1 – 4 and there is no ventilation in Arches 5 & 6.

### Breastfeeding and Bottle-feeding

Women breastfeeding and/or bottle-feeding are very welcome. Please use The Sanctuary if you would like to and you can, of course, feed during the sessions you are attending. There will be a bottle-feeding station available with a [Tommee Tippee](#) milk preparation machine and a kettle. Both are available to use at your own risk.

### Chatting at the Disco

There will be a space suitable for chatting on the night of the disco. However, due to the acoustics of the venue sound will travel so there will be background noise. The space will be made up of three main areas on the evening of the disco and the space dedicated for chatting is the furthest area away from the disco.