

## **Stuart Gair**

I was privileged to attend Stuart's funeral yesterday in Glasgow.

I had never met him but after hearing from those who had it is clear this was my loss.

While the part the State played in his death and his own shortcomings were made crystal clear my overwhelming emotion was one of sadness.

Stuart's story is a common one of someone up against it from birth who despite his humanity and talent was never allowed to escape from his past and when the power of the State had him in its grasp there was no-where for him to go.

Released from prison for a crime he did not commit he was cast adrift emotionally and psychologically and struggled to cope.

Thanks to the support of those who loved and believed in him he fought back only to be cruelly struck down at the very time that fate appeared to have turned in his favour.

Noticeably no-one from the justice system that had so failed him was there to mourn his passing.

I suggest that it is through seeking to change this system that we can best honour the memory of Stuart Gair.