

## Panel Discussion:

The criminal justice system has traditionally encountered problems defining what constitutes mental illness, particularly in relation to personality disorders. The debate needs to be informed by questions concerning civil liberty and criminal responsibility, as well as psychiatric perspectives.

Q 1- Should people with severe personality disorders be classifiable as mentally disordered for the purposes of civil commitment (court-ordered institutionalization of a person suffering from mental illness, alcoholism, or drug addiction) usually upon a finding that the person is a danger to him/herself or others or become the responsibility of the criminal justice system on the grounds that they are untreatable?

Q 2 - Do you agree with Feeney (2003) statement that: 'the trend to provide psychological explanations for society's problems has resulted in demands to ascribe more and more behavioural disturbance to mental disorder. The use of medical diagnoses such as personality disorder in this way may be unhelpful as it encourages abdication of responsibility?