McAllister Olivarius

PRESS RELEASE
EMBARGOED UNTIL 4PM BST **12 October 2020**

Sophie Walker joins McAllister Olivarius as Chief Strategy Officer

Sophie Walker, Chief Executive of Young Women's Trust and founding leader of the Women's Equality Party, is joining feminist law firm McAllister Olivarius as Chief Strategy Officer.

"I'm delighted to accept an exciting offer from a hero of mine. Ann Olivarius, who coined the phrase 'date rape', has been at the forefront of defining and prosecuting revenge porn and is a leading legal expert in sex discrimination and violence against women, has asked me to join her US-UK firm at a time when 'activist lawyers' – to coin a government phrase – have never been more needed."

"Covid is deepening already entrenched inequalities. Women are losing paid work, public representation and profile. Violence and online abuse is soaring. And the law, the last bastion for many, is squaring up to be the central battleground for social justice. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have the chance to work with the McO team to protect and defend the rights of women and of all people who have been unjustly treated in such challenging times."

Ann Olivarius said: "Sophie is a powerhouse we are very lucky to have join our firm. I have admired her vision and strength of character for years. I am sure her energy, skill and deep understanding of the obstacles women face in their lives will be a tremendous addition to our practice."

Walker is leaving Young Women's Trust after leading the charity into an organisational redesign and strategic refresh that has resulted in an energetic new focus on economic justice, support for the most marginalised young women and training for future activists.

"It's fantastic that YWT now campaigns for recognition of the unpaid and unvalued work of women; has smashed fundraising targets for an Emergency Fund that provides direct financial support to most women most in need; and will train hundreds of future activists to campaign. The team are amazing. I wish them all the very best."

Notes for editors:

McAllister Olivarius is a woman-led US-UK law firm. It is a purpose-driven plaintiff's practice that fights for women and minorities in particular and specialises in representing victims of discrimination, harassment or other forms of mistreatment in their personal or professional lives. Based in London and New York, its objective is to achieve social justice through advancing its clients' interests.

Ann Olivarius is a lawyer, feminist and philanthropist who made legal history at the age of 22 in the landmark 1977 Alexander v. Yale case that determined sexual harassment was an outlawed form of sex discrimination. She opened her own legal practice McAllister Olivarius in 1996. The firm has pioneered further cases challenging universities when they have failed to protect students from sexual harassment and campus violence. It also represents people unfairly treated at work and victims of discrimination, child sexual abuse and image-based sexual abuse ('revenge porn').You can read more about Ann here: http://www.annolivarius.com

Authorised and regulated in the UK by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, registration number 498087
Partners: **Dr Ann Olivarius** (Solicitor of England & Wales and U.S. attorney licensed in MN, NH, VA, DC, ID & NY)
Dr J.F.O. McAllister (Registered Foreign Lawyer and U.S. attorney licensed in NY & CT)

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Sophie Walker spent 20 years at Reuters as an international journalist. In 2015 she helped form and led the Women's Equality Party. She ran for London Mayor in 2016, and in 2017 stood for election to Westminster, campaigning for equal pay, affordable childcare and an end to violence against women. She is the co-founder of Activate Collective, a fund to support women activists from minority backgrounds to run for political office and the author of Five Rules For Rebellion: Let's Change the World Ourselves.

For further information, contact:

Anna Stileman
Press and Marketing Executive
astileman@mcolaw.com
+44 7790 197 505