

SCOTLAND DESERVES A FUTURE

Scotland's Progressives Are Back!

The Scottish Progressive Party has been re-established to address the growing vacuum at the heart of Scottish politics. Scotland is a strong nation with many assets and a proud history, but it is in danger of being strangled by incompetence, narrow nationalism and poverty of vision.

Although we are not opposed to independence, it is not a serious option at this point in time. We must first rebuild our economy, improve our schools and modernise our public services. A great deal of damage has been caused by previous governments and we must now put matters right.

Scottish Progressives support...

Low Taxes. Income tax cut by 3p in the pound with the ultimate aim of a low, flat-rate tax covering individuals and businesses alike.

School Vouchers. School vouchers to enhance choice, empower parents and drive up standards. We believe in diversity and flexibility in the school system to encourage excellence and nurture the talents of all.

Health Reform. Transform the health service by adopting the most effective systems used elsewhere. We propose a model based on the health service in Switzerland.

Enterprise-friendly Government. Get rid of expensive, stifling and unnecessary regulations, cut business rates and encourage inward investment. Seek powers to cut corporation tax to enable Scotland to become another 'Celtic Tiger' like Ireland.

Cutting Back The State. The Executive wastes billions of taxpayers' money, spending 20 per cent more per head than in England. We will cut back on waste and useless government programmes to get spending in line with other leading economies.

Tackling Crime. Many areas are plagued by crime, drugs, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. We will task the police to deter crime by introducing proper community policing.

We believe in small government, individual liberty and free enterprise.

Only the Scottish Progressives offer a serious agenda for reform.

OPPOSING THE STERILE POLITICS OF NATIONALISM AND CLASS HATRED

Scotland must return to the well educated, caring and progressive society it once was. We must employ the entrepreneurial skills which were once our hallmark and we must face up to our problems, no matter how controversial. This is not rocket science – it is simply a case of applying common sense and adopting what works in other countries.

However, one fact is inescapable: we must first of all put our prejudices aside and be prepared to open our minds to what will be best for our country and best for our children. Narrow nationalism has little to offer other than a return to the class-based prejudice, ignorance and cheap political posturing that we so badly need to leave behind.

REAWAKENING THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT

Scottish Progressives hold to the values of the Scottish Enlightenment – the values of individual liberty, progress, free trade and scientific advancement. These are the values by which Scotland helped to shape the modern world.

Under successive governments those values have been crushed, so that today we live under a meddlesome state that absorbs 55 per cent of Scotland's output. The productive sector is being crippled and individual freedoms are being trampled upon.

SCOTLAND'S FUTURE GOVERNANCE

Making Holyrood workable

Scotland is over-governed. Stripping down the layers of government should start with Holyrood, where we propose combining the roles of MSPs and Westminster MPs to create a parliament of 59 Members. We would introduce a 'one in one out' cap on legislation to reduce needless bureaucracy and we would establish a Repeals Committee to get rid of unnecessary laws.

The Independence Question

If you believe the hype, the spectre haunting Scottish politics is the spectre of independence. Scots are quite capable of taking a mature decision on independence when the time is right but right now this is a diversion from the real issues facing Scotland. Until we sort out basic problems, independence represents nothing but a false promise peddled by people who would bankrupt our country.

Our relationship with Europe

We will work for an open and flexible Europe with free trade, deregulation and a fair deal for farmers, fishermen and businesses. Without radical reform the European Union will never provide this. We will therefore seek a new relationship with Europe based upon these aims.

