



# SCOTLAND IN THE WORLD

Edition 2 - December 2020  
SNP Foreign Affairs Team newsletter

## SNP publish submission to UK Government's Integrated Review

SNP Defence spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP and SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP published the submission which, beyond outlining the party's long-established opposition to Trident nuclear weapons, underlines our commitment to the rule of law and multilateralism, and challenges the UK's approach to protect Scottish interests and values abroad.

[Read more here.](#)



## SNP MPs condemn UK Gov's decision to cut aid spending

SNP MPs took the Foreign Secretary to task over the government's decision to cut our overseas aid budget from 0.7 to 0.5% of the UK's GDP.

Neil Gray MP stressed that this will send the wrong message to the rest of the world, while Douglas Chapman MP argued that the pandemic has meant this spending is needed more than ever. Alyn Smith MP highlighted the implications this decision on aid spending will have on climate change mitigation.

[Watch it here.](#)

## UK Gov must do more for refugees facing Covid-19

The plight of the world's refugees has been dramatically exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking in a debate on refugee communities and Covid-19, Hannah Bardell MP asserted that the UK must do more than simply donate money to help this situation.

The UK has not taken in its fair share of refugees. Highlighting this, Hannah called on the Government to put fairness, decency and humanity at the heart of UK immigration policy.

[Watch it here.](#)

## Scotland in the World motion approved at SNP conference 2020

Scotland is ill-represented on the international stage by the UK.

During the SNP's annual national conference at the end of November, the Party approved a motion on 'Scotland in the World'.

The SNP's foreign affairs spokesperson, Alyn Smith MP, introduced the motion as a vision of a better international player, a good global citizen. A Scotland that is engaged with the world, not trying to walk away from it or bray at it from a distance.

[Watch it here.](#)



## **Victims of Syria humanitarian crisis failed by UK Gov**

In a debate on the humanitarian situation in Syria, David Linden MP called out the Tory Party and UK Government for their refusal to provide safe and legal routes for the most vulnerable child refugees to seek safety on these shores.

David condemned the UK Government for having repeatedly failed the victims of Syria's conflict.

[Watch it here.](#)

## **Sexual abuse and exploitation in aid sector must end**

Speaking in a Westminster Hall debate on sexual abuse and exploitation in the aid sector, Richard Thompson MP condemned the endemic culture of impunity in many international aid organisations and called for the UK Government to take the lead in stamping it out.

Richard stressed the importance of restoring the reputation of aid agencies, which do vital work around the world.

[Watch it here.](#)

## **Owen Thompson: Time for an ethical UK foreign policy**

Owen Thompson MP called on the UK to suspend arms sales to Israel until all reports of human rights abuses against Palestinian civilians are independently investigated.

Owen asserted that its time to return to an 'ethical foreign policy'. Scotland and the UK should be a force for good in the world, not an enabler of human rights abuses.

[Watch it here.](#)



## **Trade deals must protect Atrocity prevention strategy food and animal standards needed to protect Rohingya**

MP Stewart Hosie has called on the UK Government to protect Scottish farmers by including chapters on food and animal welfare and standards in all future trade agreements.

The UK is a high cost, high food standard regime. Hosie spoke to the National Farmers Union of Scotland which expressed serious concern about future trade deals and their ability to compete with low cost, lower standards competition from elsewhere.

[Watch it here.](#)

In a recent Westminster Hall debate, Kirsten Oswald MP called for the UK Government to listen to the SNP - who have long called for an atrocity prevention strategy of the kind proposed by UK charity Protection Approaches - and take urgent action to help the Rohingya people and all persecuted minorities.

Kirsten identified atrocity prevention as a gaping hole in UK foreign policy that should be urgently filled as part of the government's Integrated Review

[Watch it here.](#)

18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Liz

**UK Sales of Arms to Saudi Arabia Used in Yemen**

As you will be aware, there is clear evidence of the use of arms in Yemen which have been manufactured and sold by UK companies to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I understand that currently it is the UK



## We need an arms embargo on the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen

The war in Yemen continues, as do its devastating humanitarian consequences, with nearly 80% of the population in need of aid. Yet the UK Government continues to permit UK arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition despite expert UN evidence and demonstrable proof that UK-made arms have been used in Yemen.

Tommy Sheppard MP has written to Liz Truss, International Trade Secretary, to urge the government to implement an immediate arms embargo.

[Read more here.](#)

## UK must do more to address the situation in Hong Kong

Alyn Smith MP has called on the UK Government to introduce long-overdue Magnitsky sanctions on China in response to the situation in Hong Kong.

The SNP are calling for an audit of Chinese involvement in UK infrastructure, from academic institutions to the UK's data and communications, of which big chunks are being bought up by Chinese companies that are emanations of the Chinese state.

[Watch it here.](#)



## Review needed of UK involvement in Nigeria

Alyn Smith MP has highlighted the UK's funding and supply of equipment and training to police and paramilitary forces involved in abuses in Nigeria.

Alyn has called for a suspension of arms exports to Nigeria, an urgent review of the UK's involvement in Nigeria, and a decision on whether the government will impose sanctions on the Nigeria regime.

[Watch it here.](#)

## Compassion should be at the heart of our foreign policy

As Scotland comes ever closer to independence, Hannah Bardell MP has made the case for the urgent need to start thinking and talking about what kind of role we want to play on the international stage.

Writing in The National, Hannah called for compassion to be at the centre of an independent Scotland's foreign policy.

[Read it here.](#)

## UK Gov has ignored advice to investigate Russian interference

Stewart McDonald MP quizzed the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office on why the UK government has ignored the Intelligence and Security Committee's recommendation to investigate Russian interference in the Brexit vote.

The evasive reply was a masterclass in how to say something without saying anything at all

[Watch it here.](#)

**Early Day Motions**

UK Parliament &gt; Early Day Motions &gt; The 0.7 per cent overseas aid commitment

**The 0.7 per cent overseas aid commitment**

EDM 1194: tabled on 25 November 2020

Tabled in the 2019-21 session.



## **0.7% overseas aid commitment must be maintained**

Chris Law MP tabled an Early Day Motion condemning the government's move to cut the UK's 0.7% overseas aid commitment, which is enshrined in law and was a key Conservative manifesto commitment.

The EDM, calling on the UK government to maintain the 0.7% aid commitment, has been signed by 47 SNP MPs.

[\*\*Read more here.\*\*](#)

## **Conflict in Ethiopia has implications for whole region**

Speaking during Foreign Office questions, Stuart C MacDonald MP highlighted the implications which Ethiopia's escalating conflict has for others in the region, such as Somalia.

With Ethiopian troops being pulled from Somalia and redeployed to Tigray, Stuart asked the Foreign Secretary what work is being done to ensure the conflict does not lead to the destabilisation of Somalia.

[\*\*Watch it here.\*\*](#)

## **Iran must release Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**

Speaking in the House of Commons, Brendan O'Hara MP again put on record the SNP's condemnation of the Iranian government for the detention of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

Nazanin has been unlawfully detained by the Iranian regime since 2016. Brendan called for her immediate and unconditional release.

[\*\*Watch it here.\*\*](#)

# **SNP**



# **WFD**

**Programme sponsored by:**

## **Westminster Foundation for Democracy**

Like all international development organisations, the SNP's Westminster Foundation for Democracy work has had its challenges this year with Covid-19 and overseas aid budget cuts. However, we have adapted our programming and been able to demonstrate our continued commitment to international democracy support. Our on-going programmes are locally-driven and inclusion-focussed. In the Middle East, our long-standing partner is the Arab Women Parliamentarians' Network for Equality ("Ra'edat") and in Malawi, we work closely with the Parliamentary Women's Caucus. We also recently wrapped up a programme in Ukraine on disinformation and Covid-19. For further details, you can contact Head of Office Emma Armshaw at [ArmshawE@parliament.uk](mailto:ArmshawE@parliament.uk)

[\*\*Learn more here.\*\*](#)
