

GLOBAL SCOTLAND

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence
Newsletter



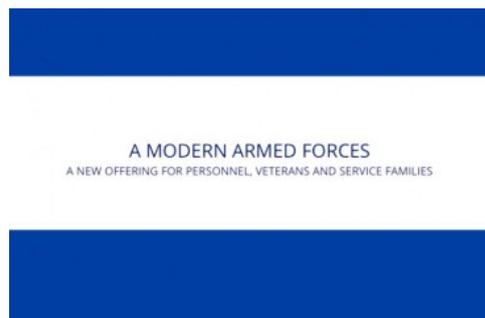
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Brutal Foreign Aid Cuts Confirmed Despite SNP Opposition

Despite a highly-charged and passionate debate, the House of Commons approved the Tory Government's cut to foreign aid. The SNP opposed the cut whilst all Scottish Tory MPs voted in favour. This is despite all major parties promising that foreign aid spending would remain at 0.7% of GNI in the last General Election, barely 18 months ago.

The cuts are around £4 billion and confirmed that the UK will be the only G7 country to cut foreign aid during the pandemic.

[Read more here.](#)



SNP Standing Up for our Armed Forces

Marking Armed Forces Day on the 26th June this year, Stewart McDonald MP published a new paper 'A Modern Armed Forces: A new offering for personnel, veterans and service families'.

It highlights the heroic effort of personnel over the past year in dealing with the Covid pandemic and vaccine rollout, calls out the neglect with which successive UK governments have treated the Armed Forces with, and sets out a range of key policies to improve and strengthen the Forces community and make it fit for the modern age.

[Read it here.](#)

Time for A Digital Geneva Convention

Writing in the Scotsman, SNP Defence spokesperson Stewart McDonald and SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Alyn Smith MP state that a Digital Geneva Convention is needed now more than ever.

Citing recent scandals such as China's sponsored hacking of Microsoft exchange servers, Stewart and Alyn outline the threat cybercrime and cyberwarfare poses to civilians. With no agreed international norms governing cyberspace, a Digital Geneva Convention would go a long way towards protecting civilians in cyberspace.

[Read it here.](#)

Save Democracy, Stop Disinformation

Down but not out. This was the verdict of a group of journalists and cross-party politicians who saw their case to protect the right to fair and free elections in the UK rejected by the High Court.

Alyn Smith MP said: "The UK Government has not done nothing with the Russia Report, but I don't think it has done nearly enough. As democratic citizens we have a right to fair and free elections. It is time the UK Government took its duty to protect as seriously as we do. We've an independence referendum to protect."

[Read more here.](#)



Grow Trade and Raise Standards

Trade and human rights should not be separate says Alyn Smith MP. The SNP criticised how the UK's Department for International Trade's 2021-22 statement made no mention of human rights, slave labour or workers' rights.

Alyn urged the UK Government to use its trade policy as an opportunity to raise global standards on human rights and other areas.

[Watch it here.](#)



Rare Moment of Cross-Party Unity in Pride Month Debate

In a rare display of cross-party unity, MPs from across the House of Commons participated in the annual Pride debate, reiterating their support for the LGBT+ community.

Alyn Smith MP and Stewart McDonald MP spoke in the debate alongside other SNP MPs. Each highlighted how Pride remains a protest and emphasised their support for transgender and women's rights. Alyn also paid tribute to the work of the late Convenor of 'Out for Independence' and Stirling activist, Leeze Lawrence.

[Watch some of the debate here.](#)

Alyn Smith MP
SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson
@AlynSmith
alyn.smith.mp@parliament.uk
www.alynsmith.scot



Invest in Personnel, Not Nukes

SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP called on the UK Government to effectively invest in its soldiers welfare at the most recent Defence Questions.

Stewart criticised the Government's decision to cut 10,000 Army personnel whilst increasing its nuclear stockpile at a time of emerging threats in areas such as cyber and autonomous weapons.

[Read more here.](#)



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Looming Crisis in North Korea

The SNP have warned about the looming humanitarian catastrophe in North Korea due to a perfect storm of famine, Covid-19 and governmental inefficiency.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP has urged the UK Government to coordinate humanitarian aid relief for the 25 million people facing famine under the world's most totalitarian regime.

[Read more here.](#)



Colombia Protests: UK Can and Should Do More

The deteriorating situation in Colombia is a test for the UK's Foreign and Development policy says Alyn Smith MP. The country has been racked by protests in recent months as it grapples with a third wave of Covid-19. There is also evidence that the Government has committed human rights violations against protestors.

Commenting, Alyn said: "The UK is in a position to do more on this... The progress made in 2016 could be lost, and that would be a disaster not just for the people of Colombia but elsewhere."

[Read more here.](#)

Stewart McDonald MP
SNP Defence Spokesperson
@StewartMcDonald
stewart.mcdonald.mp@parliament.uk
www.stewartmcdonald.scot