

GLOBAL SCOTLAND

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence
Newsletter



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Afghanistan Withdrawal: Multilateralism and Alliances Needed Now More Than Ever

The rapid victory of the Taliban has shocked many. Meanwhile, President Biden's unilateral actions during the crisis has reignited fears that it will always be 'America First'.

Writing in *The Scotsman*, Alyn Smith MP and Stewart McDonald MP urged liberal democracies not to turn their back on multilateralism but should instead learn from the mistakes of Afghanistan. In an increasingly dangerous world, the bonds between liberal democracies must be strengthened.

[Read more here.](#)



UK Must Save Afghan Refugees

For several weeks, the SNP have been urging the UK Government to do what it takes to save Afghans at risk of Taliban reprisals. Groups at risk include interpreters who worked with NATO forces, ethnic minorities, women and LGBT+ people.

SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Alyn Smith MP has reiterated that Scotland stands ready and willing to take vulnerable Afghans in. After Scotland's successful experiences with Syrian refugees, he urged the UK Government to allow Scotland to play its part in helping Afghans.

[See more here and here](#)



End Gurkha Injustice Now

Despite their sacrifices over the years, Gurkhas who have fought with British forces continue to suffer from unequal treatment, including receiving smaller pensions than their British-born colleagues.

In protest at the situation, several Gurkha veterans participated in a hunger strike outside the Ministry of Defence and across the road from 10 Downing Street for 13 days. During this time, SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP wrote to the Defence Secretary urging him to listen to the Gurkhas and take action to redress this historic injustice.

[Read it here.](#)

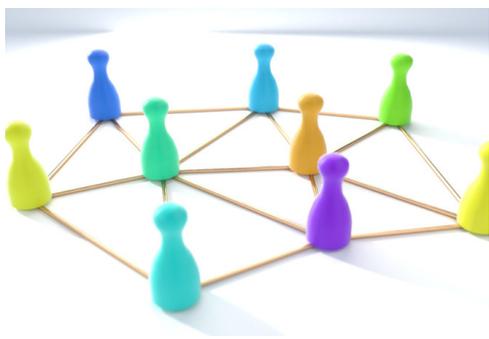


How Ordinary Scots Can Help Afghans

Writing in a statement on his website, Stewart McDonald MP outlined how ordinary Scots can play their part to help Afghans. Actions that can be taken include charity donations, donating air miles, and amplifying the voices of Afghans at risk of marginalisation and reprisals.

He reiterated that Scotland stands ready to accept refugees trying to escape Afghanistan and reassured constituents that himself and others will continue seeking solutions and hold the UK Government to account for its actions.

[Read more here.](#)



A Scottish Feminist Foreign Policy

SNP MPs and staff participated in an interesting discussion on Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) with Stirling University professor, Dr Toni Haastrup.

The discussion revolved around what actions Scotland can take to promote a FFP and what lessons it can learn from other countries around the world which have already implemented it.

[Read more here.](#)



SNP Engaging with Afghan Community

Several members of the SNP, including Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Alyn Smith MP, met with members of the Afghan Community in Scotland last week. A fruitful discussion was had as Afghans explained their worries about the situation and what they believe should be done to take things forward and help vulnerable Afghans escape the Taliban.

[See more here.](#)



Lebanon Crisis Continues

A year after the Beirut Port Blast and very little has changed. The port remains damaged whilst the country is suffering one of the worst economic crises in 150 years. SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Alyn Smith MP wrote how Lebanon's crisis demonstrates the need for the international community to engage in sustainable state-building to resolve humanitarian disasters like this.

[Read more here.](#)



Uyghurs and Other Minorities Face Further Discrimination

A damning story emerged earlier this month when it emerged that some Airbnb listings in China were actively discriminating against Uyghurs and other minorities. In addition, the accounts discriminated against those from politically sensitive areas such as Hong Kong.

In a letter to Airbnb, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP expressed his concerns that this had been allowed to take place and welcomed Airbnb's intention to remove such accounts. He also sought reassurances that such discrimination would not take place again.

[Read the letter here.](#)

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Ethiopia Edges Closer to Civil War and Famine

The Tigray Conflict in Ethiopia was dire in November. Now, it is catastrophic with thousands dead or displaced and millions more needing humanitarian aid.

As the conflict intensifies and spreads to other regions, SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Alyn Smith MP has urged for the international community to ensure access for the delivery of humanitarian aid. He has also called for the provision of a neutral forum to resolve the bitter political dispute between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the Tigrayan Peoples Liberation Front.

[Read more here.](#)

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