

GLOBAL SCOTLAND

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence
Newsletter



Edition 7 - October 2021

St Andrews Roundtable

Academics, practitioners and SNP politicians gathered together at the start of October in St Andrews for an illuminating discussion on defence, security and foreign affairs.

It was an immensely productive visit with helpful feedback and fresh ideas from leading experts for advancing the development of an independent Scotland's foreign, security and defence policies. Members also met with students from the University of St Andrews and the local Students for Independence group to answer their questions relating to their experiences in politics and provide advice for the next generation of practitioners.

[See more here and here.](#)



SNP Meet with New US Consul-General

SNP Defence spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP and SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP met with the new US Consul General, Jack Hillmeyer.

Prior to taking up his new post, Consul General Hillmeyer had served in a variety of roles within the US Foreign Service, including in Brussels, Pretoria and Karachi.

Scotland has a longstanding and deep relationship with the United States and the discussion revolved around how Scottish-American ties can be developed further.

[Read more here.](#)



FCDO Questions: Defending Cyprus

At Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office questions, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP raised awareness of the situation in Cyprus, where the north of the island remains under illegal occupation.

Alyn urged the Foreign Secretary for clarity on the UK's support for reunification of the island under a bizonal, bicomunal federation, arguing that to support the contrary would be deeply unhelpful and a retrograde step in the reconciliation process in the island.

[See more here.](#)



Scottish Business Network Success

Scottish SNP MPs Alyn Smith and Stewart McDonald met with Russell Dalgleish, Chair of the Scottish Business Network (SBN), and Ian Houston, US President of SBN.

The discussion revolved around the work of the SBN which helps facilitate greater communication and connectivity between talented Scottish companies and a network of the leading Scottish diaspora around the globe. Both sides expressed their intention to help develop Scotland's ties with its diaspora, the US and indeed the rest of the world.

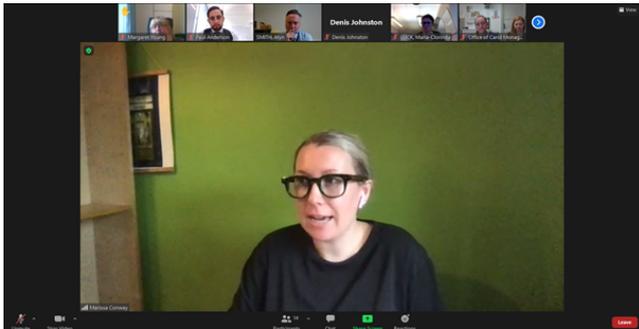
[Read more here.](#)



Scotland Restoring EU Education Links

Stirling MP Alyn Smith has welcomed the announcement from the Scottish Government that hundreds of EU students will be supported to study in Scotland through the new £2.25 million Saltire Scholarship. He noted that Brexit has: "...had a detrimental impact on Scotland's Higher Education sector... The best way to protect Scotland's academic sector is independence in Europe."

[Read more here.](#)



Discussion with Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy

As the work on developing a Scottish Feminist Foreign Policy continues, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP hosted a discussion with Marissa Conway, Co-Founder of the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy.

What followed was an enlightening and interesting discussion which illustrated what Scotland could achieve with a feminist foreign policy. This included specific policies such as gender-impact assessments of its public policies as well as what lessons Scotland could learn from other countries experiences going forward.

[Read more here.](#)

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SNP Supporting Veterans

SNP MPs, including Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald and Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Alyn Smith, attended the annual Scottish Poppy Appeal Reception earlier this month.

The event was a resounding success with solidarity demonstrated from MPs from across parties in their support for veterans and their families.

[See more here.](#)

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Sudan Coup - UK Caught Unawares

The Sudanese Prime Minister was arrested and detained by members of Sudan's armed forces in a military coup on Monday 25th September.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP raised the issue in Parliament and urged the UK Government to reassess its arms sale to Sudan and support for the Sudanese military.

[See more here.](#)



The Iran Issue - Restoring the Deal and #FreeNazanin

SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP spoke in Parliament on the need for all sides to restore the 2015 Iran deal to stop Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.

He also spoke on the continued detainment of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who has been kept in Iran against her will for 5 years, and urged the UK Government to press for the end of Iran's hostage taking of British citizens.

Alyn also demonstrated his support to Nazanin's husband, Richard, when he spoke with him during his hunger strike.

[See more here and here.](#)

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