

**All out for Yes:** Colin Fox,  
Isobel Lindsay, MSP Jean  
Urquhart, Alan Bissett  
and more in this issue  
• See inside



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# Scottish Socialist Voice

**‘On 18 September, power  
will lie in the hands of the  
Scottish people. You have  
to decide whether to keep  
it or give it away...’**

– Jim Sillars



**For a Scotland that puts  
people before profit – vote**

# Yes



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by Alan Bissett

**HERE WE** are going into the last fortnight of the long campaign for Scottish independence and things are now very exciting indeed.

The latest poll, from the No-friendly YouGov, places Yes at 47 per cent and No at 53 per cent, a massive swing of 8 per cent from their last poll, making victory for Yes very much possible. Even Better Together cheerleaders the *Daily Mail* are describing the result of as being 'on a knife edge'.

During the last TV debate with Alex Salmond, an under-pressure Alistair Darling admitted that 'of course Scotland could use the pound', putting to rest a central falsehood of the No campaign.

Better Together's advert targeting the female vote – in which a woman, filmed in the kitchen, claims not to care about politics and fails to remember the First Minister's name – alienated Yes, No and Undecided women alike for its patronising tone.

## Violence ignored

It is a measure of how Better Together have been depending upon political apathy that they're now using meaningless platitudes such as, 'I love Scotland, I'm voting No' and 'I love my kids, I'm voting No'.

But the No campaign has also taken a rather sinister turn. Aware that the UK might be slipping from their grasp,



**"MY FRIDGE MAGNETS TOLD ME TO VOTE 'NO'":** the new face of Better Together, aka 'Patronising BT Lady', has heralded in a disastrous time for the No camp

some supporters have been lashing out – literally – with reports emerging of physical violence against Yes activists.

These have been largely ignored by the media, who prefer to magnify complaints from Labour's Jim Murphy about being hit by an egg.

Murphy's ludicrous talk of 'co-ordinated attack mobs' and the No campaign's predictions of 'absolute carnage' on Scottish streets have meant a public rebuke from the Scottish Police Federation for 'intemperate, inflammatory and exaggerated language'.

Now that all of their arguments have been dispelled, Better Together are now simply trying to make the whole debate

appear toxic and off-putting to the public. Even the police are recognising this tactic.

Yes, instead of trying to fight dirty, has been quietly building up the largest mass movement in Scotland's history.

Aware that the potential for change lies within the Scottish working-class, who have been long-alienated from by right-wing UK governments, the Radical Independence Campaign have been out encouraging people on housing schemes and in job centres queues to register.

Groups like the Scottish Socialist Party and Labour For Independence, whose values have remained intact, have been successful at targeting those disaffected by Labour's drift to

the right. The same recent YouGov poll has seen support for independence rise by 12 per cent among Labour voters in the last month, as the left-wing tone of the Yes movement becomes clearer by the day.

Ideas which have been off the political agenda for generations – nuclear disarmament, the nationalisation of industry, anti-privatisation, wealth redistribution and social housing – are now on everyone's lips, and it is increasingly obvious to voters which result is most likely to deliver these.

## Political awakening

Labour, meanwhile, are spending their energies fighting against the largest political awakening of working-class people that Scotland has ever known, on behalf of our rulers.

The media and No voters like to moan about how 'divided' the country has become – as though politics never is – but the Yes movement has seen a mass of diverse peoples working together for the first time with a huge amount of bonhomie and determination.

It is proof of what can happen when the left unites: we can win.

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# WHY I'M VOTING FOR INDEPENDENCE

## Which side are you on?

by Ken Ferguson,  
editor, *Scottish Socialist Voice*



YES FOR SUCCESS: Colin Fox speaks at a huge pro-indy rally in Edinburgh PHOTO: Craig Maclean

by Colin Fox, SSP  
co-spokesperson

**VOTING YES** on 18 September unlocks a door to previously unreachable possibilities for working class people in Scotland. It frees us from the economic neoliberalism of the City of London that puts the greedy pursuit of profit for a tiny elite ahead of satisfying the primary needs of millions.

Independence means we can rid Scotland of the child poverty, fuel poverty, food banks, low wage economy and the worst anti-union laws in the whole of Europe.

It also frees us from the warmongering straitjacket imposed upon us by the British state at Westminster. They have sent our young men and women off to die in illegal and immoral wars for centuries.

Independence means we are guaranteed the govern-

ments we choose and the policies we support instead of suffering those we did not.

Think about it, after 18 September there will be no more David Camerons in Scotland, no more Tory governments we did not elect, no more Bedroom Tax we did not vote for, no more Poll Tax we did not vote for either, no more Trident nuclear weapons stationed on our soil, no more immigrants and claimants blamed for an economic crisis caused by the bankers... those days are over!

In an independent socialist Scotland no one is left behind to live in poverty and squalor, forgotten by the complacent and all too comfortable middle classes and the important decisions in Scotland are taken by the people, openly and transparently, not behind doors by faceless, unelected, unaccountable corporations who have all the money.

Democracy and serving the needs of all citizens will always trump the interests of 'the money men' in the new nation I envisage.

The Yes vote I will cast will therefore be for a modern, democratic nation that will, I believe, chose to become a republic where we elect our Head of State. And we elect someone representative of the population as a whole and who is accountable for the decisions they take on our behalf.

So I'm voting Yes on 18 September and I have never been more confident of victory than I am today.

As I travel round Scotland I see evidence everywhere of the staggering achievements of the biggest political grassroots movement Scotland has ever seen.

That superb independence coalition is truly the secret ingredient in the sweet Yes success we shall all taste on Friday 19 September.

**AFTER THE** long campaign, the scares, the experts and the claim and counter claim as 18 September approaches, the question is increasingly clear and increasingly simple. Which side are you on?

The Tories were rejected by Scottish voters an age ago as the people who brought the long years of Thatcher's class war on working people with its closures, sackings and the detested Poll Tax.

The Lib Dems, once the mister nice guys of Scottish politics, sold their souls for a few crumbs from the Westminster Tory government and are reaping the whirlwind of rejection from disgusted voters. The more this gruesome pair tell scare stories about a Yes vote the more the independence vote grows.

### In bed with the Tories

However the most shameful role in the anti-Yes campaign has been that of the party once the natural home of progressive voter favouring justice and peace—Labour.

Trashing their honourable past they have spent the campaign in bed with the Tories against the interests of their loyal voters.

In the Tory funded Labour fronted Better Together alliance they have sung the same tune as parties detested by Scots voters with a mixture of fear and threats in desperate drive to maintain the cosy Westminster world in which they enjoy a life insulated from the world of insecurity and deprivation facing thousands of those who elect them.

### Labour voters decisive

It is the decision of those Labour voters which will be decisive on 18 September—will they back a Yes vote and take the power to defend the NHS, create real well paid jobs, scrap Trident and back a people before profit Scotland, or the pretend socialists currently lined up with the Tory austerity and cuts?

In this *Voice*, we offer the views of a range of Labour trade union and Yes activists on why the answer has to be a Yes vote.

This referendum is not about parties but about creating a democracy in which we get the government we vote for and open the way to a new just, equal and peaceful Scotland.

# For social justice, fairness and equality

by Jeane Freeman,  
*Women for Independence*

**I GREW** up supporting the Labour Party. For a time, I was a Labour member and for four privileged years I worked for the party when it was in government at Holyrood. What drew me to Labour politics were the values of social justice, fairness and equality. And it is my continued belief in those values that leads me to support independence now, in 2014.

It is not a backward looking support, clinging to the 'old days'. It's not based on centuries-old grudges against ancient wrongs – real and perceived – or a romantic notion of a people 'freed'. It is a pragmatic assessment of how best those values can be realised in my lifetime.

## Unchallenged model

Scotland is a nation and for 300 or so years we have been part of a union. For many of those years, many people living in Scotland did well from that union. But successive Westminster governments have failed to use their powers to redistribute wealth, or to systematically and systemically deliver equality of

opportunity to working people in the UK. Of course, improvements have been made and some progress secured over that time.

But not enough, because the fundamental political and economic model on which that union is based has remained largely unchallenged and almost totally unchanged.

Those who were rich have become richer, those who were poor have become poorer. In the middle, some have won through to the top but the majority has struggled and continues to struggle to keep their heads just above water.

We have not yet challenged the fundamental notion on which all of this is based – that if you just work hard enough, are 'clever' enough and try hard enough, you'll do fine.

Now in 2014, as part of the UK, we are actively encouraged to keep on blaming each other. So unemployment is the 'fault' of those who arrive on our shores and take our jobs and food banks are the 'fault' of those who can't manage their money responsibly. The financial crash and the justification that has been offered for austerity economics are the 'fault' of those of us who

borrowed too much, in mortgages or on credit. The impact of zero contract hours, poor wage rates or the deregulation of banks and financial services is seldom coherently offered as underlying the employment position or the parlous economic state of the UK. The message is: let's be divided and blame each other. And what of equality? We live in a union that is the fourth most unequal in the western world.

A union where the wages gap between men and women is the highest in Europe, and where our pensioners are the poorest and our childcare and transport costs the highest.

## Gains threatened

The alternative to independence? That the Union has always worked for us and always will? It hasn't, it won't and the hard won gains we have made in that union are increasingly threatened. That it will all be sorted if we only hold fire and vote Labour in the Westminster election in 2015? Not with the UK Labour commitments already made to keep the failed economic model and the discredited political model of the past decades. That we should remember that the 'real' left is supposed to hate nationalism and that our loyalty demands a No vote?

Independence is no party's prize. Independence is about asserting our own right to govern ourselves, and no party loyalty is greater than our loyalty to each other, ourselves and our values. That it's not 'our place' to do these things, to take decision-making power into our own hands?

No, because in each of the past 14 years of devolution, we have shown that there is no one better able to make the right decisions for the people of Scotland than those of us who live here. Independence is about choice – choosing to trust ourselves, choosing to have confidence that we can run our own affairs, choosing to build our country anew – with power and wealth redistributed to benefit the many and not the few.



INDYREF: Scotland's chance for proper democracy PHOTO: Craig Maclean

## Vote Yes to break the walls of cynicism

by Mary Lockhart, *Co-operative and Labour Party member, feminist activist*

**OTHERS HAVE** written of the political and structural reasons for their decision to vote Yes. With some of these reasons, I wholeheartedly agree. But deep down, I have come to realise that they are not the reasons most important to me. All my life, people who have had ideals and ideas have been sneered at. They are "idealists", "believers in a land flowing with milk and honey", and they are told to "get real", because "without power, you can change nothing. And you can't have power and purity."

I think this has created a great wall of cynicism, on one side of which the people are denied even the right to dream, and on the other side the impure people with the power just keep adding more barbed wire and broken bottles, whilst changing nothing but the fashion in political logos and soundbites. I want to live in a place where when people have ideas and ideals they are not

told they are chasing a unicorn, but where, with others, they are encouraged to work out how to approach the unicorn until it comes to them.

There is no class solidarity in Britain in any way which is meaningful (except of the people and parties in power). There is no shift or move towards allowing people to imagine and join in working towards a future based on the best, the brightest, and the finest. We are so discouraged from reaching for the stars that we no longer bother even to reach for the top of the hills.

I don't believe there will be a mass class struggle in Britain unless and until the people in one part of it are set free to imagine. To redefine and set course for the ideal, recognising and accepting the sacrifice which the journey towards it will entail.

I think that the hope which is sweeping Scotland that such a journey is possible will spread. And with it the conviction that there is nothing wrong with having a vision of Utopia, provided you strive to create it. I am proud to dream, and ready to strive!



by *Richie Venton, SSP national workplace organiser and USDAW workplace convener*

# Workers need to vote Yes

**THE WORKING** class make up the vast majority population, but we get a shrinking minority of the wealth we create in the first place. Successive Westminster governments have widened the wealth gap, and imposed laws to keep workers imprisoned as underpaid wealth-creators for the tiny privileged minority who dictate over us.

Wages are at their lowest share of national wealth since records began in 1956. Company chief executives earned the average annual worker's wage – £26,000 – in one and a half days this year: by midday on Fat Cat Wednesday 3 January. A million Scots are officially below the breadline, and 52 per cent of these are in jobs, working to stay poor.

Class is at the heart of the choice on 18 September. If a Yes vote endangered the livelihoods of millions of working class Scots, why would the Tories have already planned a champagne party in London to celebrate a No vote?

Why would multimillionaires, their hired media and puppet politicians have spent two years lying and scaremongering to terrify us into voting No? These remote exploiters know something they don't want us to know. They rely heavily on the natural, human, financial and industrial wealth of Scotland to subsidise the rest of the UK – and have done for over 30 years.

## Workers better off with indy

Professor Brian Ashcroft – economist, opponent of independence, husband of former Labour leader Wendy Alexander – has written that if Scotland had been independent since 1981, by 2013 it would have a budget surplus of £68billion – instead of about £120billion share of the UK's debt of £1.3trillion.

Scotland not only exports food, oil, gas, whisky, engineering, etc, but also taxes to Westminster; £4.4billion of them in 2011-12 alone!

So imagine how much better off the working class potentially could be – if we not only had independent control of this wealth, but also a socialist government that re-distributed it fairly.

The Old Etonian boot-boys in Westminster, the City of London and company boardrooms can imagine this: that's the core reason they oppose Scottish independence! That, and their fear of losing the power to park devilish weapons of mass destruction on the Clyde, so they can strut the world stage in the shadow of the big boys of US imperialism.

Workers wouldn't vote to JOIN the dis-United Kingdom where the richest five families have more wealth than the poorest 12 million



**SAVE THE YARDS:** only a Yes vote can save Scotland's shipyards – in the 1979 referendum, the No camp promised to save jobs but all we got was rampant Thatcherism under Tories and New Labour

people – so why vote No and remain part of this class-divided hell-house?

Why vote No so we stay under Tory dictatorship, or even a Tory-UKIP alliance, or at best a Labour government that openly supports 90 per cent of the Tories' cuts to jobs, services, benefits and wages? Why vote No and gamble on Westminster granting a few extra powers over income tax, whilst Westminster kept hold of the purse strings, dishing out another £25billion cuts next year, but letting Holyrood take the blame for the GBH committed against the working class – the worst of both worlds?!

Vote Yes to then demand a fundamental redistribution of wealth and power to the working class. Vote Yes and organise to build for a majority socialist government with the power and

willpower to introduce a decent minimum wage of at least £9 an hour, with pensions to match.

Vote Yes to scrap the most repressive anti-union laws in all of Europe and embed a charter of workers' rights in the constitution. To scrap Trident and invest in peaceful jobs. To invest in the NHS, education, childcare and public services through progressive taxation of the rich and big business. To take Royal Mail, the energy industry, construction, transport, banks and big businesses into democratic public ownership.

Vote Yes to banish the dictatorship of the Tories and big business – and join the SSP to campaign for the construction of an independent socialist Scotland; for majority rule by and for the working class. Vote Yes to change the world, starting at home!

## 'Vote Yes to protect NHS from privatisation'

by *Mandy Nimmo, Staff Nurse*

**THE NHS** in England is being privatised through the back door by the Tories. I'm voting Yes because I want to protect the NHS from cuts and privatisation.

An NHS free at the point of need is a principle many of us hold dear, with private health care and profiting from illness the abhorrent antithesis of this principle.

The headlong rush towards the privatisation of the NHS, kickstarted by

Labour's PFI and followed to a developing conclusion by the Tories will be to the detriment of us all.

The Scottish Parliament has afforded us some protection from cuts and privatisation and even some advances like free prescription charges.

This is not enough though, with pledges of ongoing public sector cuts from the three main Westminster parties, only independence will allow us to protect and expand our NHS.

I'm sick of getting governments that we don't

vote for, and I believe we have the resources and ability to become an independent country at the same time ending Tory rule.

Independence will give the people of Scotland the ability to elect a government that reflects our aspirations and make the NHS the centrepiece of a commonly owned health service prioritising care over balance sheets. I want a country where a publicly owned NHS is seen as a priority, something I believe can't be achieved under the Tories.

# ANOTHER SCOTLAND IS POSSIBLE

by John McAllion, SSP

**ONE MEMENTO** I have kept from my time as a Labour politician is a CD of the Reverend Hammer's "Freeborn John". The CD tells in song the story of John Lilburne the leader of the English Levellers in the 17th century. It was sent to me and to 46 other Labour MPs in gratitude for our rebellion against the Labour whips in December 1997 by voting against a cut of £6 a week to lone parent benefits.

The New Labour government was then keen to establish its credentials on "welfare reform" by cracking down on what *The Sun* and the *Mail* routinely described as benefit scroungers.

The cut had been planned by the outgoing Tory government and was now implemented in full by the incoming Labour government. The Tories had been routed in a general election just six months previously.

New Labour now began to implement the policies that had earned the Tories that rejection.



**PEOPLE NOT PROFIT:**  
the only war worth waging is the war against poverty and inequality  
PHOTO: Craig Maclean

On that particular night of betrayal, Tony Blair hosted a champagne reception for media celebrities in Number 10 Downing Street.

While most of his MPs trooped through the lobbies with the Tories to punish the poor, Blair and his ministers partied and quaffed

champagne with the rich and famous in the home of the British establishment since 1737.

Gordon Brown, now posing as the social democratic champion of Better Together but then Chancellor of the Exchequer, swore that he would get the Labour "bastards" who had voted for the poor. Other and bigger betrayals would follow as New Labour embraced neoliberalism, privatisation and free markets at home while waging illegal and brutal wars overseas. The party that was created to electorally challenge the British elite on behalf of workers had by now been suborned into becoming the main electoral defence of that elite.

## Go forward and choose Yes

by Bob Thomson, former chair of the Labour Party in Scotland and member Labour for Independence

**I HAVE** been a Labour Party member for over 51 years, holding a range of positions from branch minute secretary to Scottish Chairman, from chapping on doors to negotiating with a Labour Prime Minister. Where are we now? It says Labour on the tin, but when you open it, it is a very pale imitation of what it should be.

My membership card states that it is a democratic socialist party but the impartial observer would be hard put to justify calling it a social democratic party. Three events emphasise the party leadership's betrayal of its founding principles. Voting with the ConDem Coalition for a cap on welfare benefits, the commitment to further austerity cuts and forcing through changes reducing the party's historic relations with affiliated trade unions. These events confirm my realisation that there is not a snowball's chance in hell of reclaiming Labour at Westminster for working people in the foreseeable future. New Labour! My old pal Jimmy Reid described them as "non-Labour". Better Together have spent the last 18 months running Scotland down. If Scotland is such a basket case economy, why are the unionist parties so desperate to keep Scotland in the Union? The answer is that the biggest threat to Scotland's prosperity is remaining in the UK

whose economy has been going down the plug-hole since the 1970s, with an almost continuous deficit on the balance of payments, an increasing national debt now one of the biggest in Europe and the destruction of our manufacturing, steel and mining industries with the resultant devastation of entire communities. Some comrades on the left argue that supporting independence is a betrayal of the working class in the rest of the UK. I firmly believe that Scottish independence will lead to constitutional change in the rest of the UK.

But should we go through the upheaval of separation to create a mini UK economy with its myriad social inequalities? I will be voting Yes for a fairer, more equal society where gross domestic happiness is at least as important as gross domestic product.

The Yes campaign is not just the SNP but socialist parties, the Greens and non-aligned individuals. I am campaigning with comrades in Labour for Independence to campaign to encourage the 800,000 plus Scots who voted Labour in the 2010 general election to vote Yes.

The referendum is about the future of Scotland, not the SNP or Alex Salmond. Jean-Paul Sartre said in his book, *Roads to Freedom*, "you have not only the right to choose but the duty to choose, and if you are not surrounded by poverty, by war, by oppression, by cruelty – that is what you have chosen".

Let us go forward – choose Yes.

### Cuts

Public ownership, progressive taxation, legally strong trade unions were all ditched in favour of new business friendly policies designed to grow the private sector by cutting back on the public sector. The Scottish Parliament delivered within two years of taking power was designed as a bulwark against any further nationalist stirring north of the border.

Proportional representation, shunned at Westminster, was enthusiastically adopted in Holyrood as an insurance policy against the SNP ever forming a government.

Putative Labour MSPs were rigorously selected to exclude troublemakers and to put in place loyalists who would never dream of challenging Westminster sovereignty.

Labour, of course, got that all wrong. Holyrood has had its fair share of troublemakers.

The SNP did win a majority and formed a government. There will now be an independence referendum. Voters in Scotland can now see that another Scotland is possible.

The first step towards turning that possibility into reality is a Yes vote. We are almost there.



by Lynda Williamson,  
Newsnet Scotland

# Build on campaign gains

## MOST COMMENTATORS

would agree that the process of the independence referendum has been transformational for voters in Scotland. Up and down the country people have crowded into local halls in all kinds of weather to listen to the likes of Colin Fox and Jim Sillars and many, many more.

The No campaign would have us believe that the referendum has been a distraction, that people are bored with it and wish it was all over but anyone who has discussed the referendum will know that that is not the case. The rise of the grassroots Yes support has been phenomenal, something which I have certainly never seen in my lifetime. The No campaign can only look on in envy.

## Making of the left

I believe that the referendum has also been the making of the political left in Scotland. It's also given socialists in England and the rest of Britain the wake-up call they sorely needed. So, the process of the referendum has

brought benefit all round then? Well, not quite. The one sector which has come out of this whole campaign deeply damaged (perhaps irrevocably) is the

main stream media. The referendum was a golden opportunity for journalists, it should have been a time of renaissance for the industry. That hasn't hap-

pened and what we see is people refusing to pay their television licences and newspaper circulation plummeting.

The notable exception has been the *Sunday Herald* which managed to increase its circulation by a paltry sum despite being tainted by the blatant propaganda emanating from its sister publication *The Herald*.

The paper lost any shred of journalistic integrity it had left when it printed details of Alistair Darling's fears about polling day.

## Oh, Darling...

The stuff of Darling's nightmares is not the disintegration of his precious country, it is not the prospect of the dole queue where he best behave himself lest he gets sanctioned, it is not even the fading prospect of being able to wrap himself in ermine.

Oh no, Mr Darling is being kept awake by "fears of absolute carnage" at the polling stations. We were not enlightened as to the nature of this 'carnage' he predicts. Are we talking stabbings, shootings, beatings or just eggs? All this at a time when the disenfranchised are being urged to register to vote.

It will be no small irony if the people who are put off from braving the dangers of the polling station are the middle class, over sixties who are most likely to vote No.

The Scottish Police Federation even felt the need to release a statement pleading for a more responsible attitude saying:

"Politicians and supporters of whichever point of view need to be mindful of the potential impact of intemperate, inflammatory and exaggerated language, lest they be seen to seek to create a self fulfilling prophecy."

I shouldn't complain I suppose, their loss is our gain for the citizen journalists who inhabit the world wide web.



GRASSROOTS: campaign has transformed the country PHOTO: Simon Whittle

## DUMP TRIDENT AND STRENGTHEN PEACE

by Isobel Lindsay, leading  
peace activist

**FOR THE** first time in over 50 years, Scotland has a realistic chance of getting rid of nuclear weapons here and of making a significant contribution to international pressure for nuclear disarmament. It needs a Yes on that ballot paper. This is a big responsibility for us and a great privilege to have the power on 18 September to do this. We have around 200 nuclear bombs based just a 30-minute journey from Glasgow. Any one of these bombs could kill hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians.

Westminster plans to buy a new range of Trident missiles and submarines. These would cost about a £100billion to buy and maintain over their lifetime.

Scotland can save money on this and also by having a defence budget similar to other European countries. This will mean that we can save £1billion every year and that can be spent on improving our social services and our housing.

There are not many jobs in Scotland dependent on Trident. The Ministry of Defence's own figures are 520. Most Trident jobs are in England and the United States. Scotland can create more jobs by using the money to make our communities better not to spend it on more ways of killing people. The importance of what Scotland could do has significance beyond our shores. There is no base in England that can take Trident. It would be many years and a high cost to build a new one.

So Trident would not be operational for years and it would create strong pressure in England to get rid of it. Scotland would be highly respected by many countries in the world for getting rid of nuclear weapons and setting a good example.

A Yes vote would mean we didn't get dragged into wars like Iraq and Afghanistan unless we had debated this and taken the decision ourselves.

It would mean Scotland would have representation at the United Nations, the European Union, the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and many others.

Small countries have played a valuable role in international affairs. Scotland would be well-placed to set a good example.

# Vote Yes to throw off elite rule

by Jean Urquhart MSP  
and John Finnie MSP

**THE REFERENDUM** has seen the greatest explosion of political engagement in our lifetimes. People in Britain are generally told that it's best if we let our betters make the decisions for us, but now Scots have our own future in our own hands, and we are proving more than up to the task.

This needn't be a flash in the pan. If we vote Yes, real democracy, driven by ordinary people, could be the norm.

The UK is a deeply elitist and undemocratic edifice. Decisions are stitched up between safe-seated politicians and self-serving corporate bosses before most voters ever hear about them.

## Big business

In this environment it is hardly surprising that the state has become overwhelmingly captured by corporate power.

Westminster governments, of either party, reliably take the side of big business against the interests of individuals and communities.

Global capital is powerful everywhere, of course, but



A NEW SCOTLAND:  
a country run by the people is  
a country run for the people

PHOTO: Craig Maclean

very few countries have a political system as completely in thrall to the money men as that of the UK.

So even if Scotland turned out only to be an average democracy, it would be a vast improvement. But we can aim a lot higher than that.

Armed with a newly-engaged population, fresh from the success of birthing our country anew; and with, for the first time, a written constitution that enshrines political, social and economic rights, Scotland has

the chance to become a very different place.

In a country that works for people, not corporate interests, we could expect social and environmental justice to be protected and advanced. Public ownership of public services, including the railways and big energy firms, is vastly popular but held back by the power of big business – in a real democracy, it would be the obvious choice.

If power came equally to every vote and every voice instead of to each pound or

dollar, we would bring about a fair distribution of our wealth.

The rich would be taxed fairly and without sweetheart deals and loopholes, poverty wages would be outlawed, and the social security system would be a tool of protection, not coercion.

## Our future

A country run by the people is a country run for the people. We're voting Yes because this is Scotland's chance to throw off the rule of elites, and make our future in our own image.

# Scottish Socialist Party

## Join the SSP here

Fill in this form and send it to: Scottish Socialist Party, Suite 370, 4th Floor, Central Chambers, 93 Hope St, Glasgow G2 6LD.

Or telephone: 07810205747

Or join via our website: [scottishsocialistparty.org/join-us](http://scottishsocialistparty.org/join-us)

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