

The Scottish Socialist Party sends comradely greetings to this conference and wishes it every success.

Scotland is currently engaged in the most titanic struggle in our country's modern history with the very real prospect that an independent Scotland will emerge in the near future. This in turn will mean the ending of the United Kingdom, a devastating blow to this imperialist construct.

Already the YES campaign has made great advances with the largest grassroots campaign in Scotland's history. More than 200 local groups, hundreds of large public meetings and tens of thousands of activists on the ground. This in stark contrast to the so called Better Together Campaign; an unholy alliance of Tory, Labour and Liberals, with their self styled Project Fear trying desperately to defend a status qua overwhelmingly rejected by the Scottish people. Increasingly most Left and Progressive opinion is coalescing around the YES Campaign. For that dwindling number of those on the Left arguing for a NO vote; they are on the wrong side of history and doing a disservice to their country and the class.

The Scottish Socialist Party is at the heart of the YES campaign with its own distinctive socialist vision for Scotland. A Scotland which will be a modern democratic republic, that takes key industries back into public ownership, that protects and values public services, that puts equality and the ending of poverty at the heart of its social and economic program, that is nuclear free, promotes sustainable development and is a welcoming home for all those who want to make Scotland their home irrespective of where they originally come from. Freed from the shackles of the United Kingdom we believe all these demands are realistic and realizable as they equate to the views of large sections of the Scottish people. Ultimately we want to see the establishment of a Scottish Socialist Republic.

While the Scottish Socialist Party is playing a key role in helping to transform the YES Campaign it is in turn being transformed by it. In the past year that party has been flooded with new young recruits, has doubled the number of its active branches and is moving from strength to strength. Whatever happens in the referendum in September the battle for the future of Scotland is just beginning and the Scottish Socialist Party will be in the fore front of that battle'.