



**CHOOSE  
HOPE  
OVER  
HATE**

**SCOTTISH GREENS**  
**EUROPEAN ELECTION 2019**  
**MANIFESTO**





PICTURE: CHRISTIAN GAMAU

# SCOTLAND AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

**These are the most important European elections we've ever had. They're Scotland's chance to be heard. Our chance to send a message that our democratic decision to stay in the EU must be respected. Our chance to back a radical and ambitious plan for Europe to confront the climate emergency and create millions of green jobs. Our chance to oppose the hate of the far right. Across Europe, Green political parties are surging because we offer hope over hate. Now is the time to choose hope over hate and to elect a Scottish Green MEP.**

In the 2016 EU referendum, the majority of people in Scotland voted to stay in the EU, and since then Scottish public support for remaining in the EU has grown. The Scottish Greens have fought tirelessly for this result to be respected, from leading the legal challenge which established that the UK can unilaterally revoke Article 50, to securing the Scottish Parliament's support for revocation.

Yet throughout this process the UK Government have disregarded Scotland's wishes. The referendum result in Scotland, the decisions made in the Scottish Parliament, and the elected representatives serving Scotland have all been ignored. The UK Government's proposals for a post-Brexit future would see

the Scottish Parliament's powers in many areas being reduced, threatening our devolution settlement.

The Scottish Greens believe a second referendum on the UK's membership of the EU should be held, with a remain option on the ballot. Failing that, Article 50 should be revoked. Ultimately, we believe that Scotland's future should be as an independent nation within the EU, working with others to overcome the great challenges of our time, such as the climate emergency, and to build a democratic and inclusive Europe that is environmentally sustainable and socially just.

As Greens, we stand for peace and collaboration. Remaining a member of the EU is critical to achieving our goals.

In Westminster and across Europe there has been a rise in extremist, xenophobic politics. Status quo parties, who for years blocked progressive reform in their countries and the EU, are unable to counter far-right populism. Instead, it's the Greens who are taking them on.

A Green wave is sweeping Europe, with historic results for Greens in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Finland. Green parties are in governing coalitions across Europe, from Denmark to Greece. This success has been built by Greens driving forward a radical and positive vision for the future. The Scottish Greens want to be working as part of this wider European movement for change. No European election has ever been as important as this one. Whether Scotland plays its full part as a positive member of the European family depends on us all.

## 1. A GREEN EUROPE

- ✓ Tackling the climate emergency
- ✓ A Green New Deal for Europe
- ✓ Connect Europe with fast and green public transport
- ✓ Good food and a thriving farming sector
- ✓ Fight pollution and protect the natural world

## 2. A FREE AND FAIR EUROPE

- ✓ Freedom of Movement
- ✓ A just and welcoming Scotland
- ✓ Free education and fair work for young people
- ✓ Workers' rights and a Universal Basic Income
- ✓ A feminist and diverse Europe
- ✓ Equal rights for disabled people
- ✓ Rights for black and ethnic minority Europeans

## 3. A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE UNITED IN PEACE

- ✓ Unite in peace
- ✓ Fight to strengthen the European Parliament as the democratic heart of the EU
- ✓ Digital rights
- ✓ Supporting communities and local democracy

## ELECT SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs TO:

- ✓ Stop Brexit and secure Scotland's place at the heart of Europe.
- ✓ Create millions of jobs across Europe with a Green New Deal.
- ✓ Choose hope over hate, creating a welcoming Scotland in a welcoming Europe.



# A GREEN EUROPE



PICTURE: CHRISTIAN GAMAU

**A vote for the Scottish Greens is a vote to tackle the climate emergency and create millions of green jobs across Europe.**

## Tackling the climate emergency

Last year, climate scientists warned we had just 12 years to avoid climate breakdown. We have a responsibility to ourselves, our children, and the wildlife we share this planet with to take

urgent action. Scotland cannot do this alone – but we can lead the way. The Scottish Greens were the only party to back declaring a climate emergency at Holyrood and we commit to taking a similarly strong stance in Europe.

## YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Call for a European-wide net-zero emissions target to be set as early as possible.
- ✓ Push for continuing improvements to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.
- ✓ Campaign to end subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy and redirect them to renewables.



PICTURE: DIANA PARKHOUSE

## A Green New Deal for Europe

We want to see a Europe that leads the world in the transition to a green economy and away from fossil fuels. Research commissioned by the Scottish Greens found that the rapid transition to a low-carbon economy could create over 200,000 quality jobs in Scotland alone. These are jobs that will last for the long term, unlike those that depend on fossil fuels. The International Labour Organisation estimate that implementing bold plans to tackle climate change would create two million jobs across Europe by 2030, and 24 million worldwide.

Europe can be a global leader in a just transition to a low-carbon economy. The EU should lead by example, supporting industries and activities that contribute to a fairer and more environmentally sustainable economy. This includes: manufacturing for the renewable energy supply chain; the expansion of public transport systems; a massive programme to

improve the energy efficiency of our homes and workplaces; and supporting democratic business models, including co-operatives and social enterprises.

A Green New Deal would ensure that economic development benefits us all. Our ambition is to deliver good work and decent jobs, sustainability, social inclusiveness, improved crisis resilience and stability. A Green New Deal must ensure a just transition for workers who may need to apply their skills in new areas of the economy.

*The Greens in the European Parliament have been the leading promoters of renewable energy and energy efficiency. It was Greens that pushed the EU to commit to sourcing one-third of all its energy from renewable sources by 2030.*

## YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL SUPPORT A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR EUROPE THAT WOULD:

- ✓ Deliver 100% of Europe's electricity from renewables and support the development of a European electricity grid.
- ✓ Create millions of quality jobs in the green economy.
- ✓ End the use of coal across Europe by 2030.



PICTURE: NICHOLAS DOHERTY



## Connect Europe with fast and green public transport

The Greens want to transform our aged, high-carbon transport infrastructure. We need to overcome our dependency on polluting vehicles as quickly as possible, stop the increasing pollution from aviation and invest extensively in regional and cross-border railway networks.

Greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector across Europe and in Scotland continue to rise, particularly from cars and flights. Connecting countries and regions with high-speed trains, sleeper trains, and other public transport solutions offers a positive alternative. To level the playing field between train and air traffic, rail fares need to be kept under control and flights need to be fairly taxed.

*The Greens in the European Parliament have fought for and won greater rail passenger rights, including the right to take bikes on trains, greater entitlement to compensation when trains are delayed and full rights when travelling with several railway providers.*



PICTURE: WILLIAM DAIGNEAULT

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Campaign for free public transport across the continent.
- ✓ Champion a new passenger ferry service from Scotland to the continent and a direct rail link via the Channel Tunnel.
- ✓ Support the rollout of electric vehicles and alternatives to private car ownership such as car share schemes.

## Good food and a thriving farming sector

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is one of the biggest European programmes, with a €60bn budget. Though a lifeline for many farmers, it has also driven intensive farming practices and benefited big landowners far more than small farmers and local producers. Scottish Greens support fundamental reform of the food and farming system

from one based on production to one that also values the delivery of public benefits. This would support environmentally friendly, low-carbon, high-animal-welfare farming. It would also recognise the vital role land managers can play in managing water, wildlife and soil sustainably. We need to ensure we don't miss this major opportunity for reform that would allow farmers and crofters in Scotland to thrive, and produce healthy food from a healthy environment.

*The Greens in the European Parliament have succeeded in setting up an inquiry to critically assess which pesticides are allowed to be sold in the European market, leading to an almost complete ban on bee-killing pesticides.*

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Ensure those working in agriculture can earn a decent living.
- ✓ Support climate-friendly farming that allows biodiversity to flourish.
- ✓ Push to deliver the highest animal-welfare standards.



PICTURE: FANCY CRAVE

## Fight pollution and protect the natural world

Environmental damage occurs across boundaries and needs an international approach. The EU has driven positive environmental change across Europe including

cleaner rivers and seas, limits to air pollution and the creation of a pan-European network of areas protected for nature. Yet still our cities are polluted, wildlife faces more threats than ever, and plastic pollution has become the scourge of our seas.

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS ACROSS EUROPE THAT GO FURTHER AND FASTER, INCLUDING:

- ✓ Bans on non-essential, non-recyclable plastics across Europe.
- ✓ An expanded Protected Area network with stronger protections, and more funds for nature conservation.
- ✓ Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) to benefit wildlife and communities.

PICTURE: ANDRES F URAN





# A FREE AND FAIR EUROPE

**A vote for the Scottish Greens is a vote for equality and freedom of movement.**



## Freedom of Movement

Freedom of movement across the EU enriches Scotland culturally, economically and socially. The Brexit campaign, Westminster's 'hostile environment' policy, and forced registration of EU nationals have inflicted immense suffering and fuelled hatred, while impoverishing Scotland.

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Defend freedom of movement and end Fortress Europe.
- ✓ Stand against racism and xenophobia.
- ✓ Protect freedom of movement as a fundamental right.

PICTURE: KATIE MOUM

## A welcoming Scotland for asylum seekers

Scottish Greens believe firmly in the right to asylum. We will work hard to ensure that all people seeking asylum are safe, supported, and that their human rights and dignity are protected and respected. We should never forget that guarantees of safety for asylum seekers exist due to lessons from Europe's own dark history.

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Work with Greens across Europe to establish legal and safe channels for migration.
- ✓ Build an EU asylum policy based on solidarity and human rights.
- ✓ Campaign for the fair sharing of responsibilities among member states and re-establishing a European sea-rescue mission.



PICTURE: CHRISTIAN GAMAU

## Opposing austerity

We will challenge the politics of austerity that have been promoted by the EU and restructure the economy to put the well-being of people before the interests of wealthy corporations and vested interests.

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Reform the EU's economic governance to promote social rights.
- ✓ Support EU-wide measures to clamp down on tax evasion and avoidance.
- ✓ Promote the role of trade unions and other representative bodies in managing and running corporations.



PICTURE: ADEOLU ELETU

## Workers' rights and a Universal Basic Income

Europe needs to become a truly social union, empowering workers, fighting poverty and reducing inequality. The Greens will always fight for fair pay, union rights and decent working conditions for every worker.

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Demand fair paid sick leave and parental leave in all European countries.
- ✓ Call for shorter working weeks to become the new standard.
- ✓ Work with the European Greens to get a Universal Basic Income directive passed that will guarantee citizens a minimum income while respecting national social security systems.



PICTURE: VENVEO



## Free education and fair work for young people

Inequality is growing across Europe. In Scotland, the 10% of wealthiest households hold half of the country's wealth while the 40% of the least wealthy households own a little over 3%. Young people

in particular are struggling to find employment, facing extortionate housing costs and huge inequalities. We believe young people must have the right to affordable higher education, good training conditions, and fair access to jobs which pay a decent, liveable income.

*The Greens in the current European Parliament were responsible for the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps, giving young people the chance to take part in volunteer work and projects across the EU.*

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Fight for an end to income discrimination against young people.
- ✓ Champion Scotland's continued involvement in the Erasmus+ scheme, which allows young people to study, train and work overseas, benefitting over 6,000 young Scots every year.
- ✓ Support a tenfold increase in the Erasmus+ budget so all young people can participate.

PICTURE: KIMBERLY FARMER

## A feminist and diverse Europe

Equality is at the heart of Scottish Green policies, and we will work with the European Greens and others to celebrate diversity and deliver radical reforms that lead to real equality across Europe. Greens will work to ensure all European policies recognise diversity and contribute to the prevention of discrimination and violence. We will also call upon the EU and all countries to implement the Istanbul Convention to combat violence against women.

*Thanks to the efforts of the Green MEPs in the current European Parliament, negotiations are under way to guarantee non-transferrable parental leave rights for both parents, well-paid paternity leave, and carers leave.*

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Demand free, accessible, and safe sexual and reproductive health care.
- ✓ Secure equal pay for equal work and gender-balance across all European power structures.
- ✓ Require progress on LGBTI+ equality from all member states, and use the EU's global voice to oppose homophobia, transphobia and biphobia around the world.



PICTURE: T CHICK MCCLURE

## Equal rights for disabled people

Greens across Europe share a commitment to human rights and social inclusion for disabled people and their allies. We are a movement based on solidarity, peer support, inclusion, democracy, self-representation and self-

determination. Greens believe these provisions are not only fair but also will improve the public environment, benefit the work sector overall, and enhance wider society. We will continue to push for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be fully implemented in Europe and around the world.

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Demand accessible buildings, transport and infrastructure to allow disabled people full involvement as citizens with equal opportunities.
- ✓ Fair working environments including reasonable adjustments being made in offices, making part-time and flexible working available, and ensuring equal pay for equal work.
- ✓ Support disabled people to vote and stand for elected office.

## Rights for black and ethnic minority Europeans

The Greens stand against racism wherever we find it. We recognise that more subtle forms of racism lie deep within our culture and have permeated society and the institutions and organisations that shape our lives. This structural racism must also be challenged.

### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Support the rights of minority cultures, and oppose and speak out against oppression on the grounds of religious belief.
- ✓ Ensure better enforcement of the EU racial equality directive.
- ✓ Support stronger measures to combat discrimination in employment practices and in the workplace.



PICTURE: ELYSSA FAHNDRICH



# A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE UNITED IN PEACE

**A vote for the Scottish Greens is a vote for peace and democracy, and against movements that undermine rights and freedoms.**

## Unite in peace

The EU is first and foremost a peace project. It has been hugely successful, uniting member states in peace since its founding. With the rise of the far-right, xenophobia and

authoritarianism, the EU's role in promoting peace in Europe and across the world has never been more important. European Greens are calling for the EU to do more to maintain peace by working collaboratively.

## YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Support steps towards removing all nuclear weapons from Europe and advocate withdrawing from NATO, an alliance which refuses to rule out first use of its nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Support an increase in international aid funding and use this to contribute to the efforts of governments in developing countries to build, expand and strengthen their public services.
- ✓ End the export from Europe of military, security and surveillance technologies.

PICTURE: JONATHAN MEYER



## Fight to strengthen the European Parliament as the democratic heart of the EU

The EU is vital to addressing some of the most complex challenges of our time because it can tackle these at a continental level. However, we recognise that ordinary people and civil society organisations can feel excluded from European policy-making and struggle to access information on the work of the EU Parliament and Commission. Transparency of EU institutions for citizens is indispensable. We must also prevent the European Central Bank from imposing austerity across the EU by fighting for democratic power over the bank.

Green MEPs want to be frontrunners for transparency and accountability. That is why the Green/EFA group of MEPs are the only ones to apply strict rules on how they can use their 'General Expenditure Allowance', which is provided to MEPs to cover certain costs related to their work.

## YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Call for greater protections for activists, journalists and whistleblowers who expose information in the public interest.
- ✓ Campaign for better access to information on EU expenditure.
- ✓ Demand that citizens have the right to examine any EU documents, source materials and decisions at any time, without further justification. Exceptions to this rule should be decided upon on a case-by-case basis and must be explained publicly.

PICTURE: ABSOLUTVISION

## Digital rights

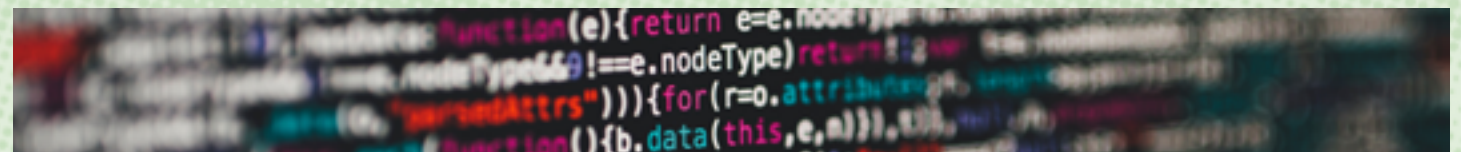
Greens want technology to benefit everyone in society instead of dividing us against one another for the benefit of big corporations. We believe your data should be owned by you, for your benefit rather than sold to the highest corporate bidder. Some giant tech companies are also providing platforms to lower working conditions, abuse citizens' privacy and undermine democracy. That's why Green MEPs have led the case for the EU to stand up for an internet based on digital rights.

The current Green MEPs have had a huge impact on the European Parliament's position on reforms to ensure our privacy online. We have succeeded in establishing mandatory privacy-by-default settings for browsers and smartphones, and strong protections against being tracked across the web by advertisers. We also ensured mandatory end-to-end encryption and a ban on government backdoors.

## YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Continue to urge the EU to stand up for digital rights and avoid concentrating online power in the hands of a few corporations.
- ✓ Protect net neutrality rules and oppose unfair copyright reforms that would entrench corporate control.
- ✓ Campaign for easy, affordable access to all results of publicly-funded research to maximise scientific, cultural and economic progress.

PICTURE: MARKUS-SPISKE







PICTURE: CHRISTIAN GAMAU

### Supporting communities and local democracy

The Scottish Greens believe in localism and want more decisions to be made at the lowest level of governance. The EU has an important role to play in supporting local governments

and helping them access funding sources. The EU has invested £379 million in 188 projects over the last five years to help create jobs, support local communities and protect the environment. The Scottish Greens want to see this flow of investment continue.

#### YOUR SCOTTISH GREEN MEPs WILL:

- ✓ Oppose any EU competition rules that would force local authorities or national governments to privatise public services and publicly-owned assets.
- ✓ Support competition rules that enable governments to hold resources under public ownership where this best serves their citizens.
- ✓ Preserve the self-determination of regions and nations in Europe when developing local infrastructure.



PICTURE: MAN KWAN



PICTURE: CHRISTIAN WIEDIGER



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