

Yes for Debt Justice

Yes Scotland welcomes the publication of **"Jubilee Scotland and the independence referendum"**.

We recognise the knowledge and expertise of Jubilee Scotland on the issue of debt justice and welcome its participation and contribution to the debate about Scotland's constitutional future. By engaging in the debate now and developing policy ideas now, charities such as Jubilee Scotland can begin to shape how an independent Scotland would look after a Yes vote.

Yes Scotland supports the call by Jubilee Scotland for "a Scotland which is not implicated in unjust or unpayable debts - either by receiving payments for old debts, or creating new debts through irresponsible lending".

Scotland's Choice - Taking Action, or Waiting for Action

Yes Scotland argues that the issue of debt relief illustrates the clear choice that Scotland has to make in the forthcoming referendum. With a Yes vote we gain the powers to deliver change and take action. With a No vote we remain little more than a small lobby group, with 59 out of 650 MPs at Westminster.

Why settle for making calls and asking for change - when we ourselves have the opportunity to make the change directly?

Unjust Debt and Independence

Of course, Yes Scotland cannot guarantee what policy the first governments of an independent Scotland will adopt towards debt - that is a matter for the people of Scotland to decide at the elections scheduled for May 2016. What we can confidently say is that arguments for debt cancellation and related policies will be well received and will be influential in shaping a new approach from an independent Scottish Government.

Jubilee Scotland itself attracts support from across civic society - trade unions, churches, local authorities and other charities.

And across almost all parties in the Scottish Parliament there is support for the goals of Jubilee Scotland as regularly reflected in Parliamentary motions and party conference motions.

For these reasons, we believe that Jubilee Scotland and its supporters can be very optimistic that in an independent Scotland many of its goals will be realised.

We support the analysis of Jubilee Scotland on the possibilities open to an independent Scotland.

Scotland is a wealthy country. By pursuing these possibilities, an independent Scotland has the opportunity to make a real and direct difference to the lives of people in developing countries and, more broadly, to show international leadership and provide an example of good practise.

Instead of lobbying and waiting, a Yes vote empowers us to act and to lead.