

Reason to Vote SNP in General Election 2015. Over the past week or so we have seen the 3 main Westminster Parties in a panic, running around like headless chickens, except when it comes to Anti-SNP sentiment that is. The rise in the SNP has taken everyone by surprise, none more so than the Better Together friends of Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats. All 3 believed the Indy-ref would be the end of Scotland making a noise and demanding recognition either as a separate country or as a democratic player in Westminster, they couldn't have been more wrong. Since September SNP membership has risen from around 25,000 to over 110,000 and is rising every day, and it is not just the media portrayed Yes voters who have flocked to join either. Thousands of people who voted No in the Independence Referendum have also joined, why?, it's easy really, The Smith Commission never recommended the Powers that were promised and Westminster has diluted those recommendations even further, but more so, they have joined because they know that the SNP are the only Party that will fight tooth and nail for Scotland.

Now, the Westminster 3 will have you believe that the SNP are not interested in making it work at Westminster, in their opinion the SNP are going to London with the sole purpose of breaking up the Union. All three are claiming that a vote for the SNP in GE15 is a vote for indyref2, Labour Scotland branch have even went to the effort of making a campaign video claiming just that. They even use sections of the Mhairi Black interview that was debunked in last week's (issue 14) bulletin. This could not be further from the truth, the SNP are not using GE15 as a stepping stone, they are fighting for a Stronger Voice for Scotland and an end to the savage austerity measures of the LibCon coalition, measures that will be continued throughout the next term by all 3 Westminster Parties.

As we all know Labour are the worst of culprits, but we didn't realise how bad they would get until this week. Over the weekend it has come to light that Anas Sawar has been sending out duplicate letters (see <http://tinyurl.com/mbdu5ja>) claiming to be a neighbour. The opening paragraph goes like this "I am one of your neighbours in 'street name'. I don't normally get involved in politics, but who we have fighting for us as our Member of Parliament will make a big difference to people living in Glasgow" It is also been reported that Sawar's father has been knocking the doors of Asian families, warning them not to vote out his son. Jim Murphy has been at too, he has been sending out letters to pensioner households (see issue 14) (<http://tinyurl.com/ndfhsjr>). Jim's letter ends "I don't want to see the pensions put at risk and, unlike the SNP, will never vote to scrap the UK pension in the House of Commons. I don't want the SNP to retire the UK pension in Scotland. Now that the SNP have committed to scrapping the UK pension and Tories are determined to continue with their unfair austerity, the only way to protect pensioners in Scotland is to vote Labour". This is to be backed up by the new Leaflet going to all homes (supposedly) stating that "we have 23hrs 59min to stop a 2nd referendum". **Lie after Lie after Lie with a bit of scare thrown in.** But that's not all we have a Labour Activist group posting letters through doors, letters (<http://tinyurl.com/ozla5xw>) with the SNP letterhead claiming to be for new members, one paragraph reads "It is clear that the SNP will be sending its greatest number of MPs to Westminster ever. But, to make a real difference we need to work with others. David Cameron, despite the rhetoric in the press, supported the referendum, and in many ways is the party closest to our views of prosperity for all. You will know that beyond the rhetoric the SNP and the Tories have collaborated in the past. Outrageous and foolish propaganda by a desperate party who will stop at nothing to maintain its hold over Scotland.

Now that I have detailed the underhanded lying scaremongers the Westminster 3, especially Labour Scotland branch, I will try and detail why the SNP is the right choice for Scotland. I will not mention referendums because we all know this election is not about that, I will not mention pensions because we all know they are safe, I will look at policy. I don't think for one second that anyone can look rationally at the record of the SNP as a minority then a majority Scottish Government and realistically claim they have not done a good job. We have better public services, better education and better national healthcare in Scotland all because of the Scottish Government. Yes, they have had to make some tough decisions that not all of us have agreed with, but we must remember we can't borrow and must stay within a budget handed out to us from London. And, when London cuts our budget in Scotland, sometimes cuts must be made in Scotland of that there is no escape.

The SNP have already given Scotland, Free prescriptions, free education, free personal care, best NHS in UK, 9600 more NHS staff, increased childcare, council tax freeze (5yr), no bridge tolls, free hospital parking, saved local A&Es from closure, 1000 more police officers, reduction in crime, free school meals for P1-3 kids, a commitment to provide 25000 modern apprenticeships per year, negated the bedroom tax, building 35% more homes (per 1000 people) than England and 49% higher than Wales, a Fracking planning moratorium and more. Lord Foulkes claimed "the SNP are on a dangerous tack at the moment, what they are trying to do is build up a situation where services are manifestly better than south of the border in a number of areas" asked if that was a bad thing, he replied "No, but they are doing it deliberately".

Voting SNP on Thursday will give Scotland a stronger voice, fight the life threatening austerity programme of the Westminster 3, fight child benefit, tax credit and disability cuts, push for increase in carers allowance to match min wage, protect NHS from cuts and privatisation, push for greater NHS spending, higher pensions, to stop the pension age rising, protect the pensioners fuel allowance and more (see issue 13)

Don't believe the lies of the Westminster parties, a vote for the SNP is not a vote for the Tories or Labour, **a vote for the SNP is a vote for Scotland.** Currently Scotland provides a net **35** anti-Tory MPs (47 Labour and SNP minus 12 Tory and Lib Dem). Even were the SNP to pull off a clean sweep, wiping Labour out totally, that number would rise to **59** anti-Tory MPs. That's **24 extra anti-Tory votes** in the Commons compared to the Labour landslide of 2010. **A vote for the SNP is a vote for anti-austerity** for a change in the same old UK politics that just don't work, **a vote for the SNP is a vote for Progress not just in Scotland but for the entire UK.**

Remember, if you read it or hear it research it, you will be surprised at the truth.

Reasons not to Vote Conservative

As many of us have come to expect and accept Political Parties make promises around election time, promises that make many thousands vote for that party, but, promises that never materialise. The Conservatives are no different to most in all but one respect, most broken Tory promises cause undue hardship and even death as this last LibCon coalition has proven.

In the run up to the 2010 GE David Cameron made few big promises that swung a few votes his and his Parties way, not enough to win a majority, but did that really matter? After all the Liberal Democrats have shown that they are no better than the Tories in many respect.

'We have absolutely no plans to raise VAT.' Cameron pledge, talking to BBC's Jeremy Paxman, he added: "*Our first budget is all about recognising we need to get spending under control rather than putting up tax.*" Nick Clegg and the Lib Dems also swore they would not raise VAT, while warning voters that the Conservatives would. When the U-turn came the "Tory VAT bombshell". George Osborne announced in his very first budget that he would raise VAT from 17.5 to 20 per cent..

(Devolved) 'We are going to make our midwives' lives a lot easier... we will increase the number of midwives by 3,000.' Cameron in an article for the Sun in January 2010. - There are just over 2,000 more qualified midwives now than there were in May 2010.

(Devolved) 'The government should say not just there is a presumption you will be prosecuted if you carry a knife, but that there will be a presumption you will go to jail.' Cameron first said this in a Sun interview in 2008. No law has been passed that automatically jails anyone who carries a knife. The coalition did introduce a new crime of "threatening with article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises". Adults could expect to get a custodial sentence, but not just for carrying a knife, a judge could still decide against jail depending on the circumstances.

(Devolved) 'I'm not going to flannel you, I'm going to give it to you straight... I like the child benefit, I wouldn't change child benefit, I wouldn't means-test it, I don't think that is a good idea.' from a question-and-answer session the Cameron did in March 2010.

In 2013 means-testing of child benefit kicked in, with a reduced benefit for households with one parent earning more than £50,000 a year. The change was predicted to affect about a million families. Nick Clegg had also appeared to rule out such a move before the election, saying in a BBC interview: "*There are some benefits and I think child benefit is one of them, where actually I think it's quite important that everybody, rich or poor, wherever they live, feels they have got a stake in it.*"

(Devolved) 'We've looked at educational maintenance allowances and we haven't announced any plan to get rid of them. We don't have any plans to get rid of them. It's one of the plans the Labour party keep putting out, but we're not.'

David Cameron was answering a question on the future of the educational maintenance allowance (EMA) at a question-and-answer event in January 2010. Save EMA campaign director James asked "*Do you support it?*" and: "*Is that a yes?*" The Conservative leader eventually replied: "*That is a yes*". A month before the election the future Education Secretary, Michael Gove, said: "*Ed Balls keeps saying that we are committed to scrapping the EMA. I have never said this. We won't.*" The EMA, a grant paid to the poorest 16 to 19-year-olds in further education, was of course scrapped after the election.

Now that's just broken promises, promises we accepted and voted on but accept when they are not carried through. Anyway, broken promises do not make a Government Policy and Action makes a Government. Under the Tories we have seen extreme rises in Foodbanks, the Trussell Trust estimating that 1,000,000 children are using foodbanks today. Benefits Sanctions have not seen many of the UKs poorest suffer extreme hardship, but the sanction regime has been responsible for the deaths. One example is David Clapson, he died with no food in his stomach. His benefits had been stopped as a result of missing one meeting at the jobcentre. David was diabetic, without the £71.70 a week from his jobseeker's allowance he couldn't afford to eat or put credit on his electricity card to keep the fridge where he kept his insulin working. Three weeks later David died from diabetic ketoacidosis, caused by a severe lack of insulin. A pile of CVs was found next to his body. The minister in charge of welfare is the sadistic Ian Duncan Smith, a man who claimed over £35 for a single breakfast and claimed anyone should be able to live on £7 per day.

The introduction of the Strivers' Tax, a raid on working age benefits and tax credits. Estimated to leave working families £1,152 worse off over the next five years. This huge cuts to tax credits will hit 7.9 million families with at least one adult earning (2013 figure). At the same time the Coalition handed out a £3billion tax cut to the highest earners – worth an average of £107,000 to 8,000 millionaires.

NHS England's biggest-ever privatisation deal worth up to £780m. 11 private firms paid by the NHS to carry out heart, joint and other types of operations and perform scans, X-rays and other diagnostic tests on patients. This could have knock on implications to the NHS in Scotland as nearly £78m of cuts look like they are heading our way.

Let us not forget the promises to clear the deficit and bring down the debt over the term of parliament, not achieved, not even close but they fully intend to go against Economists advice and continue with austerity, hurting societies worst off and making the rich richer, stopping the economy from ever truly growing. By growing I mean really growing, not moving the unemployed from one register to another. Debt by year is as follows; Labour, 2008-£0.53T, 2009-£0.62T, 2010 - £0.76T, now for Tories and Lib Dems, 2011-£0.91T, 2012-£1.1T, 2013-£1.19T, 2014-£1.26T and 2015-£1.36T.

And finally from the Party of broken promises, the mighty VOW, the promise of near Federalism for Scotland, all powers except Foreign Policy and Defence. Not even close. On 19th September Cameron tied the vow to changes in England and the un-democratic English Votes for English Laws (EVEL), instantly changing the deal he promised the Scottish electorate. Added to that is the further delusion of the derisory Smith Commission recommendations and we have a Party that would NOT know honesty and social justice if it slapped them in the face. Don't vote Tory.