

The foundations of a progressive alliance?

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Compass [have just published](#) the following. Given my belief that this country needs a Progressive Alliance I think this of interest. The shame is the silence from Labour:

Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister of Scotland, has joined forces with the leaders of Plaid Cymru and the Green Party to call for progressive parties to work together to resist the 'Tories' toxic politics'.

The leaders have released a statement ahead of Theresa May's first major conference speech as Conservative Party leader.

In the statement — signed by Sturgeon, Leanne Wood of Plaid Cymru, Jonathan Bartley and Caroline Lucas from the Green Party of England and Wales and the leaders of the Green Parties of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales — the politicians attack the Conservatives for the 'the most toxic rhetoric on immigration seen from any government in living memory.'

The statement goes on to say:

"This is not a time for parties to play games, or meekly respect the tired convention whereby they do not break cover during each other's conferences. It is an occasion for us to restate the importance of working together to resist the Tories' toxic politics, and make the case for a better future for our people and communities."

The statement was drawn up this morning between the parties as a response to increasingly hostile rhetoric from the Conservative Party Conference.

Caroline Lucas, who has long urged progressive parties to work together more, said:

"Now more than ever it is vital that we present a real opposition to the Conservatives. This conference has seen them attempt to inflame tensions in our communities and set

out a vision for a ‘hard brexit’ that will do untold damage to the places we represent. By uniting we have the best chance of facing them down and protecting the people who elected us.”

Full statement, signed by:

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland
Jonathon Bailey, Co-Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales
Caroline Lucas, Co-Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales
Caroline Wood, Leader of Plaid Cymru
Steven Agnew, Leader of the Green Party of Northern Ireland
Patrick Harvie, Co-Convenor of the Scottish Green Party
Alice Hooker-Stroud, Leader of the Wales Green Party