

English exceptionalism based on imperialism is not a ba...

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The leaders of the SNP, Plaid Cymru and Sinn Féin signed this agreement yesterday:



Scotland, Wales and Ireland have distinct histories, identities and political traditions.

Each of our nations has the right to determine its own future, through democratic means and in accordance with the wishes of its people.

Today, Plaid Cymru, the Scottish National Party and Sinn Féin are coming together to reaffirm our commitment to working constructively with one another in the shared interests of our people.

We share a belief that the nations and communities we represent deserve greater ambition, greater economic opportunity and a stronger voice in determining their own futures.

The political landscape across these islands is changing.

For the first time ever, people across these islands have First Ministers in Scotland, in Wales and in the North of Ireland who are all committed to independence from the United Kingdom.

For people watching across these islands - for people watching around the world - there could be no clearer sign that Westminster's time is coming to an end.

We believe there is a better way: nations working together as equals, sharing ideas and expertise, and building relationships based on mutual respect and common interests.

Momentum is behind our movements; we believe that constitutional change is coming.

We therefore commit to strengthening cooperation between our parties and identifying practical areas where working together can make a real difference.

These include:

- **A stronger, fairer economy:** Sharing ideas and experience on how to build productive, prosperous economies that create good jobs, tackle inequality and ensure that wealth and opportunity are spread more fairly. We reject Whitehall's broken economic model and will instead build economies which deliver social justice and reduce inequality across our nations.
- **Expanding our own energy resources:** Our vast resources of renewable energy, to bring down bills for families and businesses. The energy wealth of our nations should serve the needs of our people.
- **Europe and international cooperation:** Brexit has damaged our economies and limited opportunities for our people. We believe the future of our nations belongs in the European Union. We want to work together to rebuild and strengthen those European relationships, creating greater opportunities for trade, investment, culture and cooperation.
- **Our nations have the right to self-determination:** No Westminster government has the right to block democracy or undermine the principle that our people will decide their own future.

We recognise that our parties have different constitutional positions and that each nation will determine its own future in its own way and in its own time.

What unites us is a determination to ensure that the voices of our nations are heard, that our people have the opportunity to thrive, and that cooperation between Scotland, Wales and Ireland can be strengthened.

We call for the British Government to prepare for, plan and facilitate constitutional change in each jurisdiction.

The future should be one in which our nations can cooperate confidently, speak for themselves and build relationships with one another and with the wider world based on equality, respect and mutual benefit.

Today marks a further step in building that cooperation.

John Birtney MEP
SNP leader

Rhodri Iwan
Plaid Cymru leader

Michelle O'Neill MLA
Sinn Féin Vice President

Mary Lou McDonald TD
Sinn Féin President

Since the text is a little small, I'll highlight two sections. First, the opening which says:

Scotland, Wales and Ireland have distinct histories, identities and political traditions.

Each of our nations has the right to determine its own future, through democratic means and in accordance with the wishes of its people.

And then, from the concluding paragraphs:

We recognise that our parties have different constitutional positions and that each nation will determine its own future in its own way and in its own time.

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I support this call. I look forward to the days when there is no longer a UK, but four nations, including a united Ireland.

And what does Burnham say? It's a straight no from him.

No wonder so many people in so many places have had enough of Labour, and never want to see it again. He's the last Labour PM unless he begins to understand why, and this issue is one of those he has to address.

English exceptionalism based on imperialism is not a basis for governing. It is time he recognised that.