

PRESS RELEASE

HEADLINE – UN Decolonization process initiated by Liberation Scotland

DATELINE: 11 March 2025, Scotland

LEAD: Scotland's decolonization process has begun with the submission of Scotland's case to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24).

On 7 March, on behalf of more than 17,000 members of Liberation Scotland, Justice pour Tous Internationale notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York and the Chair and Bureau of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) of the establishment of Scotland's peaceful liberation movement. It also submitted an advance notice of petition for the formal recognition of Scotland as a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the United Nations decolonization framework, in accordance with the principles enshrined in United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV), and 1654 (XVI), and Chapter XI of the UN Charter. Together, these establish the legal basis for decolonization (that is, independence) and the right to self-determination for peoples under external governance.

The Advance Notice argues that the UK government has actively obstructed Scotland's right to self-determination, in contravention of UN General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV), which states, "*all peoples have the right to self-determination*" and that the "*subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights.*"

Professor Alf Baird, co-convenor of the Liberation Scotland committee said:

"Scotland's political and constitutional status aligns with the established international criteria for recognition as a Non-Self-Governing Territory. The forthcoming petition aims to rectify Scotland's exclusion from the UN decolonization agenda by formally requesting its inclusion on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, thereby initiating the process for Scotland's recognition as a territory entitled to self-determination and independence under UN oversight." He added: *"This is a momentous development but necessary due to the undemocratic nature of our political system whereby successive elected majorities of nationalist politicians in Scotland have failed to deliver independence, and with the UK Government continuing to block the inalienable right of Scots to self-determination. There is also the realization that colonial exploitation and domination of Scotland and its people must be ended and can be, via the UN decolonization process Liberation Scotland has initiated. Almost all former colonies that have become independent countries since the creation of the United Nations in 1945 have done so through the UN self-determination and decolonization process."*

Sara Salyers, Director Salvo Scotland, the Campaign Organization of Liberation Scotland, commented:

"Contrary to what we in Scotland – as well as the world at large – have been led to believe, the historical incorporation of Scotland into the United Kingdom in 1707 did not constitute a voluntary partnership. It was never an expression of self-determination, but a process marked by political coercion, by the threats of economic sanctions and military invasion and by bribery. Ultimately, it saw the abandonment by England of the Treaty of Union in favour of the annexation and ongoing colonization of Scotland. The dissolution of Scotland's independent governance structures followed, along with the displacement of the indigenous population, the suppression of Scotland's cultures, and the colonial exploitation of Scotland's maritime and territorial assets. The denial of Scotland's democratic rights has continued ever since."

By misrepresenting Scotland as a voluntary partner in the creation of a new state, rather than a dependency of the English Crown, the UK government has failed to meet its responsibility under the criteria set forth by the United Nations under Resolution 1541 (XV): Principles which should guide Members in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73e of the United Nations Charter."

What Liberation Scotland now seeks is both internationally lawful, and a fundamental human right. It is simple justice for our nation and long overdue."

Sharof Azizov, Executive Director, Justice pour Tous Internationale, has commended the strength of the case:

"The Advance Notice of Petition convincingly argues that Scotland lost its political autonomy and became a colony under Westminster's governance and that this and other institutions of the state have systemically eroded Scotland's constitutional distinctiveness and suppressed Scotland's rights to self-determination."

Given the compelling evidence demonstrating Scotland's continued governance under external authority, its lack of full self-government, and the systematic denial of its right to self-determination, the Advance Notice will follow in due time with a formal request urging the C-24 to formally recognize Scotland as a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the UN decolonization framework, in accordance with the legal criteria set forth in Resolution 1541 (XV) (1960) and the principles articulated in Resolution 1514 (XV) (1960). The evidence presented in this submission will establish that Scotland satisfies the requirements for classification as a territory that has not yet achieved a full measure of self-government and therefore qualifies for inclusion on the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

A copy of the Advance Notice of Petition and supporting papers can be viewed on the Liberation movement website: www.liberation.scot

END

For further information contact:- Secretariat@Liberation.scot

BACKGROUND

Liberation Scotland is a peaceful movement committed to restoring the inherent national rights of Scotland and the constitutional and human rights of our people, including their inalienable right to self-determination, usurped through an act of annexation by the Anglo-British state. The movement is represented by the elected Liberation Scotland Committee, secretariat and Salvo Core.

Justice pour Tous Internationale is a not-for-profit human rights organisation based in Geneva which, through legal representation and advocacy, combats injustice and protects the fundamental freedoms of individuals and nations over influential multilateral platforms, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).