

# Is UKIP a challenge to progressive politics?

Kate Samuels (Scotland)

# Introduction

- ▶ Scotland has a complicated political make up (sectarianism, rejection of conservatism and labour, independence, nationalism)
- ▶ SNP dominates the Scottish Politics, recently winning all but 2 seats in GE 2015 and lead the Scottish Parliament
- ▶ Voting system different to England (guide in country folder) **129 MSPs** are elected in total: 73 constituency MSPs and 56 regional MSPs
- ▶ SNP, Labour, Conservatives Lib Dems and Greens all pro-europe in Scotland
- ▶ In Scotland UKIP only has 1 MEP elected in 2014 David Coburn
- ▶ Nigel Farage claims that UKIP will do well in next Scottish elections and also that Scotland is as anti-eu as England

(SNP campaigning, copyright Kate Samuels, 2015)





The UK Independence Party is a right wing populist political party founded in 1993.



UKIP are extremely vocal about controlling the UK's borders and managing immigration.

They have been criticised for being too right wing (to the extent of being labeled racist) by some.



**UKIP EDUCATION, SKILLS & TRAINING #GE2015**

- Scrap university fees for students from less wealthy backgrounds studying Maths and Science led courses with no repayment on tuition fees as long as they work/pay after five years of graduation
- Allow secondary schools to become Grammar schools if they wish to
- Abolish AS level exams and allow students to go straight to A levels

**UKIP HOUSING #GE2015**

- Encourage local authorities to prioritise people with local connections when making housing allocations.

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**The Fun FACTS**

UKIP want to repeal the Human Rights Act and replace with the UK Bill of Rights

**UKIP Money #GE2015**

- Tax-free personal income under £13,000
- Fund NHS with 8,000 more GPs, 20,000 more nurses and 3,000 midwives
- Monitor zero hour contracts
- UKIP want to leave the EU so they can have more money for the UK to invest in services such as the NHS while also reducing bureaucracy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1rlrdtrUAA>

# Progressive Politics

- ▶ No set definition, a term associated with left wing politics and implies a fairer society. Those who can afford to pay more, do so, for example in tax.
- ▶ SNP Policies - prescriptions and council tax, claim of anti-austerity, anti-fracking
- ▶ Douglas Fraser, Business/Economy editor BBC Scotland *'Progressive spending cuts are those that fall most heavily on those best equipped to bear them. In those terms, it's sometimes seen as fair, or a means for re-distribution.'*
- ▶ Can also mean socially i.e Tony Blair and David Cameron both used the word.
- ▶ In fact one challenge is that UKIP are also using the word Douglas Carswell *"Ukip needs to be not too prescriptive, we need to build a progressive coalition who want real reform, and that is going to mean reaching out to people right across the spectrum.'* (switched from Conservative to UKIP in 2014)

# Is UKIP a challenge?

- ▶ Anti-EU
- ▶ Racism and anti-immigration stance
- ▶ Empathises 'Great Britain'
- ▶ Replacing the Human Rights Act with the Bill of Rights

# Similarities with the Greens

- ▶ Local Focus
- ▶ Against first past the post system
- ▶ More funding for education (stopping fees for poorest students in STEM subjects)

Copyright Cass Macgregor (Scottish Young Greens, 2015)



# Conclusion-

- ▶ Scottish National Party dominance/lack of opposition
- ▶ Conservatively held views and rejection of right wing policies
- ▶ Growing divide between Scotland and rest of UK - future independence?
- ▶ UKIP rise/right wing growth
- ▶ Scottish Elections 2016 - an opportunity