Is UKIP a challenge to progressive politics?

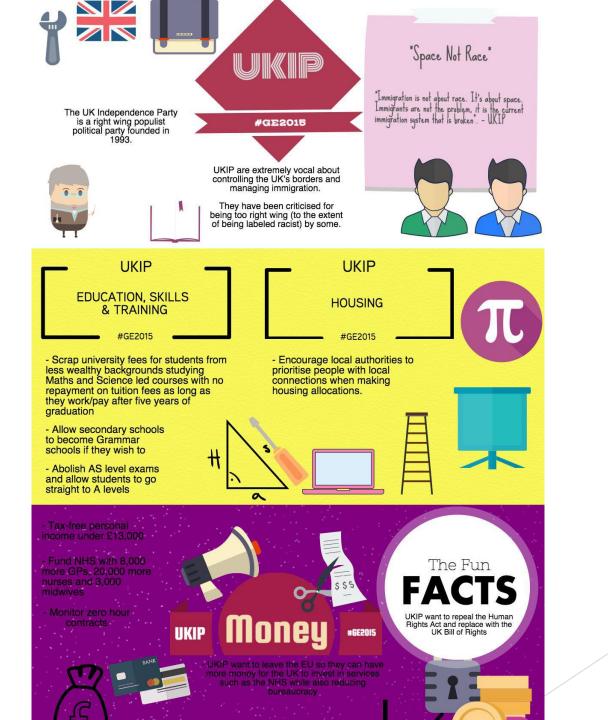
Kate Samuels (Scotland)

Introduction

- Scotland has a complicated political make up (sectarianism, rejection of conservativism 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)





https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=w1rlrdtr UAA

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, antifracking
- 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?

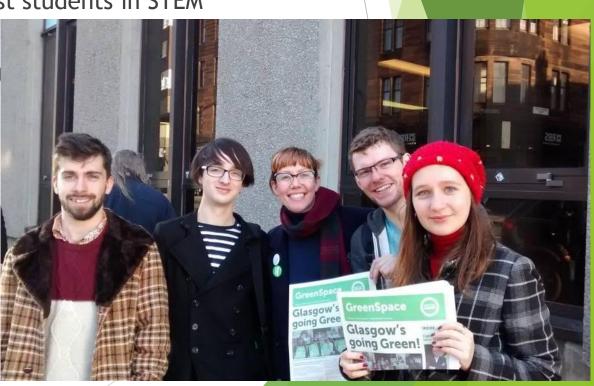
- Anti-EU
- Racism and anti-immigration stance
- Empathises 'Great Britain'
- Replacing the Human Rights Act with the Bill of Rights

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