

Greens gear up for second MP at Bristol campaign base launch



29 April 2017

*** Greens urge Bristol to make history and elect Molly Scott Cato**

*** Molly Scott Cato: "It's time for an independent, progressive voice to stand up for Bristol West"**

The Green Party will open the headquarters of its Bristol campaign tomorrow (Saturday 29 April) as it gears up to make history and deliver the party's second MP.

Molly Scott Cato, Bristol West candidate, will be joined by co-leader Jonathan Bartley to open her campaign shop as Greens prepare to take the seat from Labour.

Scott Cato will also welcome support from the Women's Equality Party (WEP) – who have stood down in the seat to give Scott Cato a clear run at beating Labour [1] – and announce her plans to stand up for women and young people in Bristol.

The Greens have 11 councillors in Bristol and came a close second in Bristol West in 2015 with a 27% of the vote.

Molly Scott Cato, Green parliamentary candidate for Bristol West, said:

"This is an historic moment for the city of Bristol, with the opportunity to elect me as the city's first Green MP. With the world standing at a crossroads, we believe it's time for an independent, progressive voice to stand up for all of Bristol West's constituents. We will be campaigning to win in Bristol West, and the opening of our campaign shop is key to that effort."

Jonathan Bartley, Green co-leader, said:

"Bristol has a very real opportunity to make history by delivering the country's second Green MP in June. Molly is a formidable candidate who would give Bristol a distinctive voice in Parliament, just as Caroline has done for Brighton, and it's an honour to visit this special city to help Molly open her campaign base here.

"I'm delighted to welcome the WEP's support for Molly in Bristol West. It is a clear and important recognition that Molly is someone who will bring people together and stand up for everyone with a bold vision to give Bristol the kind of future it both needs and deserves."

Notes:

1. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2017/04/28/green-party-agrees-electoral-alliance-with-women%E2%80%99s-equality-party/>

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

Wales' links with the Middle East set to reach new heights

Following Qatar Airways' decision to invest in a new direct service from Cardiff to Doha, the First Minister is meeting with the airline's CEO, HE Akbar Al Baker, as well as senior officials from Qatar International Islamic Bank, the Qatar Investment Authority and Qatar National Bank.

First Minister Carwyn Jones said:

"The direct service between Cardiff and Doha is a huge boost for Wales. It will open up Wales' links with the rest of the world and deliver new economic, leisure and travel opportunities for Welsh businesses and the people of Wales.

"Providing a direct route into the world's fastest growing hub airport, Hamad International, will also bring Wales closer to leading global markets such as India, China, Singapore and Australasia.

"My visit to Doha this weekend, alongside the new service, is the beginning of a special relationship with Qatar and the Middle East.

"We will maximise the opportunities created by this new route and use it as catalyst for increased Middle Eastern investment, including from sovereign wealth funds, into new infrastructure projects in Wales.

"As we prepare for a future outside the EU, it is more important than ever before to sell Wales to the world and meet with potential investors across the globe to show them exactly what Wales has to offer."

Green Party responds to Isle of Wight MP resignation



28 April 2017

The Green Party has responded to news Andrew Turner, Conservative MP for the Isle of Wight, has resigned [1] after making offensive comments about homosexuality on a visit to a college [2].

Vix Lowthion, Green Party candidate for the Isle of Wight, said:

“Andrew Turner was unfit to represent the Isle of Wight and his recent, abhorrent comments left his place in Parliament completely untenable. People here deserves someone who will stand up for them. Today the Green Party announced radical plans to protect LGBTIQ+ refugees, provide decent HIV protection and promote rights for intersex and trans people – that is the kind of politics people in the Isle of Wight need and only the Green Party can offer.”

ENDS.

For more information contact: press@greenparty.org.uk / 0203 691 9401

Notes:

1. <http://www.islandecho.co.uk/news/andrew-turner-resigns-mp>
2. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2017/04/28/green-party-condemns-conservative-mp%E2%80%99s-comments-on-homosexuality/>
3. Vix Lowthion is a teacher in the Isle of Wight and Green Party national education spokesperson

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

News story: Journée de souvenir dédiée à toutes les victimes de la guerre chimique

Chaque année, la communauté internationale s'interrompt le 29 avril pour se

souvenir des victimes des guerres chimiques. L'ONU promeut une prise de conscience internationale et appelle à agir contre ces armes horribles qui frappent insidieusement et sans discrimination, causant la mort et des blessures terribles à des gens qui n'ont aucun moyen de se défendre.

Cette année sera d'autant plus poignante car les images de l'attaque chimique de Khan Sheikhoun en Syrie sont encore dans nos mémoires. Malheureusement, nous avons déjà vécu cela et ces attaques ne font que souligner la souffrance que le peuple syrien endure depuis trop longtemps.

Mise en œuvre le 29 Avril 1997, la Convention sur les Armes Chimiques a aujourd'hui 20 ans. Cette convention rend illégal la production, le stockage et l'usage d'armes chimiques. Depuis 2005, les Nations Unies ont choisi cette date pour donner l'occasion aux peuples, à travers le monde, de rendre hommage aux victimes de la guerre chimique et de pouvoir exprimer leur soutien à l'Organisation pour l'Interdiction des Armes Chimiques (OIAC). C'est aussi l'occasion pour le monde de s'unir afin de condamner l'usage des armes chimiques n'importe quand, n'importe où et par n'importe qui.

L'OIAC a commencé, à juste titre, le processus visant à lancer une enquête indépendante autour des événements de Khan Sheikhoun. Le Directeur Général a déjà souligné dans un rapport que les premiers résultats de leurs analyses indiquent bien une exposition au gaz sarin ou à une substance similaire.

Ces résultats sont cohérents avec l'évaluation publiée par la France le 26 avril, ainsi qu'avec notre propre étude d'échantillons des victimes et de l'environnement immédiat par des scientifiques britanniques. En effet, les États-Unis, le Royaume-Uni, la France et la Turquie ont tous testé leurs propres échantillons indépendamment et ont conclu que le gaz sarin avait bien été utilisé.

Comme l'a déclaré le Ministre des Affaires étrangères Boris Johnson, « de part la présence de fragments d'obus dans le cratère, nous savons que, non seulement du gaz sarin a été utilisé, mais que ce gaz porte la signature des armes chimiques utilisées par le régime d'Assad. L'étude des échantillons prélevés sur les victimes démontre qu'elles ont indéniablement été exposées au gaz sarin. Il n'y a donc qu'une conclusion à tirer : le régime d'Assad a utilisé des armes chimiques de manière quasiment certaine contre son propre peuple, en violation du droit international et des règles de la guerre. »

Le peuple syrien devrait être protégé par son gouvernement ; les enfants syriens devraient grandir en sécurité et en bonne santé. Au lieu de cela, ce sont les victimes innocentes d'un conflit qui entraîné des souffrances indicibles, la mort et des déplacements de populations forcés.

Nous sommes clairs sur le fait qu'une solution politique – plutôt qu'une solution militaire – est nécessaire pour mettre fin à cette guerre. Le Royaume-Uni continue de soutenir le processus politique mené par les Nations Unies et la transition vers un nouveau gouvernement syrien qui apportera paix et stabilité de manière durable. Nous travaillons également à soulager la souffrance du peuple syrien. A ce titre, le gouvernement britannique a engagé 2,46 milliards de livres sterling depuis 2012, ce qui constitue l'aide la

plus importante jamais apportée par notre pays à une crise humanitaire, et qui fait de nous le second plus large donateur bilatéral en matière humanitaire en ce qui concerne la crise syrienne.

Ainsi, en cette 'Journée du souvenir dédiée à toutes les victimes des guerres chimiques' organisée par les Nations Unies, rendons hommage au peuple de Khan Sheikhoun, ainsi qu'à tous les hommes, les femmes et les enfants innocents qui ont perdu la vie au cours des six dernières années dans ce conflit terrible en Syrie. La communauté internationale doit rappeler fermement que l'usage d'armes chimiques est inacceptable. Le Royaume-Uni et la France sont à l'avant-garde de cet effort. C'est uniquement en travaillant ensemble à ce que les responsables subissent les conséquences de leurs actes que la communauté internationale parviendra à empêcher que ces atrocités se reproduisent.

Speech: Foreign Secretary statement at the UNSC meeting on North Korea

Thank You Mr President.

The United Nations Charter defines the supreme task of this Council as the maintenance of peace and international security. There could hardly be a clearer threat to world peace, more demanding of a unified response, than the activities of one member of the United Nations, North Korea, breaking its Treaty obligations, ignoring the will of this Council, and making blood-curdling threats to inflict grievous harm on peoples of other countries. For decades, North Korea has doggedly pursued the means to act on these threats.

In a nation whose entire GDP is about \$25 billion and where its people have over recent decades been exposed to terrible suffering, reduced to eating leaves and the bark of trees. The Pyongyang regime has devoted its energies to developing nuclear weapons and the missiles to convey them. Last year alone, North Korea tested two nuclear devices and more than 24 ballistic missiles. This year, we have witnessed more missile tests and I remind the Council that every one of those tests breaks seven UN Resolutions, stretching back to Resolution 1695, passed unanimously in 2006.

So we should reject, I am afraid, we should reject any claims of moral equivalence between North Korea's actions and the defensive and precautionary measures of other nations. The second, the latter, are legitimate; the first are not and, in spite of the strenuous efforts of some to obscure that distinction, that distinction cannot be ignored or elided.

So the United Kingdom believes it is vital for this Council to stand ready to take further significant measures to bring about a peaceful resolution. And sooner or later, the North Korean leadership must realise that their

isolation not only holds back their own people – if the regime really cares about their own people – but also weakens their own grip on power.

This Council must be united in its demand that the present course cannot continue and Britain is proud today to have joined its allies to lead the enforcement of sanctions and seek a peaceful solution. We urge other partners with direct influence on North Korea to use their leverage to the full, with the aim of easing tensions and ensuring compliance with the expressed will of the UN.

There is a vital role for China and Russia, both of whom are neighbours of North Korea with influence on Pyongyang and, as permanent members of this Council. Special responsibility they have for preserving international peace and security. The UK calls on Russia and China and other Member States to use whatever influence they possess to restrain North Korea and guide its leaders towards a peaceful settlement.

Last year, this Council decided to toughen sanctions on North Korea, including by restricting the regime's access to foreign currency. But the UN Panel of Experts has shown that not every Member State is fully enforcing those Resolutions. Most members of the UN have yet to obey the requirement in Resolution 2270 to submit a national report on their implementation of sanctions.

The UK believes that all member states should re-affirm their commitment to enforcing UN sanctions against North Korea. But, we also have no doubt that negotiations must, at some point, form part of the solution. But first, it is reasonable to expect North Korea to make verifiable progress towards meeting its obligations to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula. For as long as Pyongyang continues to defy this Council, the conditions will not be helpful for resuming the Six Party Talks – or negotiations in any other format.

While the most pressing threat is North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear ambitions, we must never forget the horrifying abuse the regime metes out to its own people, as documented in the UN Commission of Inquiry in 2014. This Council has discussed human rights in North Korea on previous occasions – and there should be no reticence about doing so. The UK fully supports the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights both of whom perform the crucial task of investigating and recording these violations.

Britain stands alongside our allies in making clear that North Korea must obey the UN and halt its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, disarming in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. Only then can this Council be assured of the peace and security of the region – and only then can the people of North Korea have the chance of a better future.

Thank you.