

The iron laws of demography have Scotland firmly in their icy grip. Put simply, our nation is throwing in the towel and committing a sort of collective suicide. We seem to have given up on the future and shutting up shop as we just don't seem to want children anymore.

In recent years there have routinely been many more deaths than births and births are at the lowest levels since records began in 1855. In 2019 there were 50,000 live births and 58,000 deaths (and over 13,000 abortions!).

It is only immigration which has maintained the population as we desperately scour the world for staff to look after our sick and elderly, harvest our crops and service our hospitality industry.

As the number of births declines and people are living longer the demographic profile of our country is becoming seriously top heavy. By 2050 we will not be able to provide essential services for the elderly and infirm out of the taxable income of the working population.



Governments talk about the problem but do not have the resolve to confront it. The philosopher Peter Kreeft put the solution bluntly "The single most possible thing we can do to save our civilisation-at all times and all places and in all cultures, whether they are good or evil, religious or irreligious, ancient or modern – is to have children".

Some argue that population growth leads to pollution and increased climate change and until this is solved think it cruel to bring children into a world on the brink of extinction. This is the narrative preached in our schools and promoted in the media, but world population is expected to flatten and even decline in the coming decades, presenting many difficulties.

Across the developed world the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the number of children born to women during their fertile years, has plummeted. In Scotland in 1971 the TFR was 2.5 but it has dived to 1.37. Just to maintain our population requires a TFR of 2.1. In England and Wales this figure is 1.65. The rest of Europe is not faring much better with an average TFR of 1.53.

The decline of marriage, fragile families, glorification of career, denigration of motherhood, delaying of child birth, aversion to children and widespread abortion have all contributed to this downward spiral of falling fertility.

Pope Francis recently stated, "If families are not at the centre of the present, there will be no future." Europe and the developed world are in a spiral of decline. Large families are mocked as irresponsible guzzlers of child benefits while the media extol the virtues of the child-free life.

**We seek to reverse the trend by celebrating and supporting parenthood, changing the national culture and removing the barriers that currently deter parents from having as many children as they'd like to.**



## Population Policies

The SNP wants to offer fertility “treatment” to single people. Deliberately creating fatherless or motherless children is not the answer!

Perpetual mass immigration is not a sustainable solution as fertility rates tumble worldwide.

The other “solution” offered by the SNP is yet more state child care to enable women to work more. They seem oblivious to the fact that many mothers would actually like to spend more time with their own children.

We believe that men and women should have a choice about how they approach family life and their careers. Full-time parents should be supported and not penalised by the state. A fully transferable tax allowance would be a good start.

We promote marriage as the best foundation for stable family life. Married couples have more children.

We recognise the traditional family unit as the basic building block of a strong Scottish nation. The protection and support of the traditional family provides the most obvious means to overcome our demographic crisis.

Our other policies would significantly ease the financial strain on parents. This would help families to have as many children as they would like.

## Filling the Void in Scottish Politics

The fundamental values that underpin our society are being eroded. We present a better vision for the future of Scotland.

We offer fresh perspectives that could help solve deeply ingrained problems, and policies that could enable people of all ages to flourish as they pursue their path through life.

Our foundational philosophy is quite distinct from the current Holyrood parties.

We seek to bring common sense, wisdom, justice, truth, decency, integrity and virtue into political debate and, ultimately, into the Scottish Parliament.

Please join us in making our dream a reality. You can become a member through our website. We’d value your support and we’d love to meet you.



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# Scotland’s Demographic Winter



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