



PRESS RELEASE

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RSE Young Academy of Scotland releases Position Statement on Brexit

Scotland's leading young entrepreneurs, professionals and academics call for the UK Government to prioritise protecting Scotland's current progressive, diverse and open society during its development of Brexit negotiations.

This position statement is the first output from the Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) December 2016 Plenary Meeting, 'Brexit: What is in Scotland's National Interest?' The meeting explored how the YAS could engage and contribute to the implementation of Brexit in order to obtain the best outcome for Scotland, for researchers and professionals based in Scotland, and for the UK.

For a Progressive and Open Society

As the implications of the 2016 UK referendum on EU membership are worked out, and in advance of formal 'Brexit' negotiations, the YAS calls on the UK Government to prioritise maintaining the significant gains from the UK's membership of the European Union. Consistent with Scotland's international reputation in fostering an open and progressive society, these include:

- Supporting a diverse and democratic Europe where members of nations work together for the common good, including the ability for EU citizens to live, work and study in Scotland and vice versa.
- Safeguarding the social protections of workers' rights and minorities' rights, in addition to maintaining and upholding broader social, environmental and human rights advances.
- Maximising the economic benefits that flow from free trade with 500 million people across Europe.

Liberal democracies are relatively recent, and fragile, achievements. It is our firm view that closing the door to migration and turning our backs on internationalism undermines our capacity to sustain and advance successful societies.

The YAS commits itself to continuing to foster cross-sector and interdisciplinary activities from across the European Union and beyond among emerging leaders from the disciplines of science and humanities, the professions, the arts, social sciences, business, civil society and industry. Consistent with its mission to pursue transformative societal change through citizenship, innovation, collaboration,

evidence and leadership, the YAS deems it crucial for the UK Government to promote a climate in which diversity is valued, and to safeguard laws and public policies through which Scotland and the UK's social, cultural and economic development can prosper.

ENDS.

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Notes for Editors

Established by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011, the Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) is part of a network of Global Young Academies (GYA) and provides a platform for innovative entrepreneurs, professionals and academics to develop a coherent and influential voice, and to address the most challenging issues facing society in Scotland and beyond.

The YAS was the first such academy to be established in the UK and is part of a growing network across Europe and beyond. Now with 150 members, the YAS has already benefited society with a range of projects including the following: the Research the Headlines blog, which shares members' expertise to inform the public; Numeracy Counts, which supports the school curriculum; FIRST LEGO League, which helps school children develop engineering and robotics skills; and the Silent Histories project, a video and accompanying school resource pack which allows children to explore the 'Silent History' of refugees in Scotland.

For more information about the YAS, including details of the above projects, please visit www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk