

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland Position Statement on Brexit For a Progressive and Open Society, January 2017

As the implications of the 2016 UK referendum on EU membership are worked out, and in advance of formal 'Brexit' negotiations, the Young Academy of Scotland 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 Young Academy of Scotland (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, business, civil society and industry. Consistent with its mission to pursue transformative societal change through citizenship, innovation, collaboration, evidence and leadership, 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.

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.

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