

**PRESS RELEASE – FAO LOCAL REPORTERS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SNP MEP, MP & MSP JOIN FORCES IN KIRKCALDY TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN NATIONALS**

**JOINT STATEMENT OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY INTENT TO PROTECT CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS**



SNP politicians across Holyrood, Westminster and Brussels made a fresh call for reassurance for Fife’s EU citizens on Wednesday, pledging an inter-parliamentary effort to protect the rights of European nationals at a visit to the Fife Migrants Forum in Kirkcaldy.

Local parliamentarians Roger Mullin MP and David Torrance MSP teamed up with the SNP’s Alyn Smith MEP to record a joint video message to the Kingdom’s diverse local community of European migrants. The team made a fresh pledge for a united SNP effort to protect residency and working rights across the Scottish Parliament, the UK House of Commons and the European Parliament, and demanded the UK government guarantee the uninterrupted rights of European nationals to live and work in Scotland.

The joint statement is in direct response to the uncertainty caused by the UK’s recent referendum vote to Leave the European Union, in which Scotland overwhelmingly voted to Remain in the EU. The MP, MSP and MEP called for an immediate statement of clarity from the UK government to confirm the continued residency and work rights of European citizens living in Scotland, and promised to challenge any threatened change to those circumstances.

Speaking on the rights of EU nationals to continue living and working in Scotland, Roger Mullin MP commented: “David, Alyn and I were keen to collaborate and show support to EU

nationals across our constituencies, to ensure that they continue to feel welcome within their local communities and within Scotland.

“I was one of the first parliamentarians to raise the issue at Prime Minister’s Questions, quite some time before the EU referendum took place – the situation has of course become more serious since the vote.”

He added; “However, I have written recently to approximately 2000 EU nationals within my constituency of Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath to assure them of my support, and I am also holding a special meeting for EU nationals on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2016.”

Commenting, the SNP’s David Torrance MSP said; “Our message to European migrants couldn’t be clearer: Scotland is your home.

“Kirkcaldy and Fife have benefitted hugely from European migration, and EU nationals have contributed culturally, economically and socially to local communities. It is absolutely essential that all European nationals who see their future here continue to feel welcome, and are able to live and work here as they have done for generations.”

Alyn Smith MEP recently made international headlines after receiving a standing ovation for delivering a speech in the European Parliament highlighting the strength of Scotland’s Remain vote. The MEP is also a candidate for the SNP’s Deputy Leadership, going head to head with Angus Robertson MP and Tommy Sheppard MP in the upcoming contest.

Commenting, Alyn Smith MEP said; “We value the contribution made by our new Scots – you’re part of our community now and we want to keep you as part of our community, so we’ll be working tirelessly to ensure your rights are respected.

“I’m very concerned by some of the noises coming from the UK Government, but from a Scottish perspective, we will do everything we can to keep you safe.”

The trio made their statement at a visit to the Fife Migrants Forum in Kirkcaldy.

Maciej Dokurno, Chair of the Fife Migrants Forum, said: “We are grateful and proud that following the referendum result we have witnessed many of our Scottish politicians speak out to assure EU residents that we are welcome and will continue to be welcomed in Scotland.”

David Torrance MSP added; “Across three chambers of government, we’re presenting a strong, united force with a simple message to EU nationals; we will work together to protect your rights.”

Alyn Smith MEP added; “Anyone who is part of the Scottish community right now is part of our present and part of our future.”

The joint video message will to be released online on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016.

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Photo details from left to right;

*Maciej Dokurno, Chair (Fife Migrants Forum),  
Alyn Smith MEP,  
Roger Mullin MP,  
Violeta Ilando, Board Member (Fife Migrants Forum),  
David Torrance MSP,  
and Joanna Zawadzka, Manager (Fife Migrants Forum).*

Fife Migrants Forum is a Scottish registered charity (SC043053).  
The forum is based at 36 Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy.

Alyn Smith MEP can be found on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/alynsmithSNP>  
and on Twitter at @AlynSmithMEP.

Roger Mullin MP can be found on Facebook at  
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and on Twitter at @RogMull.

David Torrance MSP can be found on Facebook at  
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