# Patrick Harvie renews push for Scottish republic amid rising anti-monarchy sentiment



The question of the monarchy's relevance in modern Scotland has resurfaced with vigor, particularly as Patrick Harvie, co-leader of the Scottish Greens, asserts that maintaining the Royal Family is increasingly unjustifiable. As he prepares to address attendees at the Republic Day festival in Edinburgh, Harvie's sentiments resonate with a growing sentiment among Scots. He argues that, amid a backdrop of escalating inequality and a deepening cost-of-living crisis, there is "no place in modern Scotland for the monarchy."

This assertion is emblematic of Harvie's long-standing stance advocating for an independent Scottish republic. Over the years, he has consistently described the monarchy as an outdated institution that upholds hereditary privilege—a system misaligned with the democratic values held by many in Scotland. The wealth amassed by the Royal Family, juxtaposed against the struggles of ordinary citizens, has only intensified calls for reform. Harvie noted, “The taxpayer-funded sovereign grant rises year on year,” while many communities face stark financial challenges. The disparity between the Royal Family's fortunes and those of vulnerable populations underscores the perceived injustice of the monarchy's position.

As nations across the Commonwealth reassess their ties to the Crown, Scotland appears poised to reflect on its relationship with this institution. Recent polls indicate that public opinion might be shifting; a survey revealed that fewer than half of Scots now support retaining the monarchy. This growing discontent could suggest a potential movement towards re-evaluating Scotland’s political identity, particularly in the context of independence.

Harvie also emphasises the potential benefits of an independent republic, where power rests firmly in the hands of the people rather than being passed down through generations of one family. He envisions a fairer and greener Scotland, one that would not only redistribute wealth but also utilise royal estates for community benefit and job creation. This vision seeks to challenge the status quo and promote equity, especially at a time when societal disparities are becoming harder to ignore.

Moreover, the Scottish Greens have repeatedly highlighted that the current model does not only strain public finances, but also hampers Scotland’s progress. In earlier statements, Harvie argued that to aspire for an equitable and independent Scotland, it is imperative to abandon the remnants of a feudal past represented by the monarchy. He has been vocal about the need for a democratic head of state that would be accountable to the populace, rather than someone who inherits their position without any democratic mandate.

The call to abolish the monarchy has become a refrain for the Scottish Greens, as their leadership underscores the incompatibility of a hereditary system with the principles of modern democracy. Harvie has remarked that the view of monarchy as a norm is misplaced, asserting that it is essential to engage in a national debate about its future. As the conversation unfolds, the question remains: Can Scotland envision a future free from the symbolism of monarchy, or will tradition hold sway in a nation eager for change?

Ultimately, the discourse surrounding the monarchy in Scotland is reflective of broader societal values and aspirations for a democratic framework that prioritises equity, accountability, and the collective good over ancestral privilege. As Harvie encapsulated, “Ultimately, it should be the people of Scotland who are sovereign,” suggesting that the path forward is one where the nation collectively redefines its identity and governance structure.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraph 2, 3
3. Paragraphs 3, 4
4. Paragraphs 1, 6
5. Paragraph 4
6. Paragraph 1
7. Paragraph 3

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/keeping-royal-family-scotland-can-35200933> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://greens.scot/news/scottish-greens-call-for-republic-monarchy-is-increasingly-ridiculous-and-unjustified> - In September 2024, Scottish Green co-leader Patrick Harvie criticized the UK monarchy as an 'increasingly ridiculous, costly and unjustified institution.' He advocated for an independent Scottish republic with an elected head of state, emphasizing the need for a modern, democratic system that challenges hereditary privilege, especially during a cost-of-living crisis affecting many Scots. Harvie highlighted the contrast between the monarchy's wealth and the struggles of vulnerable communities, calling for a system that benefits the many rather than the few.
3. <https://greens.scot/news/greens-monarchy-would-hold-scotland-back-after-independence> - In March 2021, the Scottish Greens argued that the monarchy is an 'outdated, discredited and totally undemocratic institution' that would impede Scotland's progress post-independence. Co-leader Patrick Harvie emphasized the importance of a democratically accountable head of state, suggesting that hereditary titles and unearned wealth are incompatible with a fairer, greener, and independent Scotland. He proposed utilizing the royal estates for community benefit and job creation, aligning with the party's vision for a more equitable society.
4. <https://greens.scot/news/independent-scotland-can-be-a-modern-democratic-republic> - In March 2023, Patrick Harvie reaffirmed the Scottish Greens' support for an independent Scottish republic. He criticized the monarchy as an 'outdated and fundamentally undemocratic institution' and advocated for a modern democracy with an elected head of state. Harvie highlighted the potential for Scotland to be a fairer, greener country where power lies with the people, and public wealth held by the crown is used for community benefit, especially during a cost-of-living crisis.
5. <https://greens.scot/news/nothing-normal-or-inevitable-about-monarchy> - In April 2023, the Scottish Greens called for a national debate on the future of the monarchy in the UK. Co-leader Patrick Harvie questioned the relevance of the monarchy in the 21st century, especially during a cost-of-living crisis. He emphasized the need for a modern, democratic, and independent republic with an elected head of state, where power rests with the people and public wealth is used for community benefit.
6. <https://greens.scot/news/greens-hail-growing-support-for-an-independent-scottish-republic> - In December 2024, the Scottish Greens welcomed a poll showing 59% support for an independent Scottish republic. Co-leader Patrick Harvie highlighted the incompatibility of the monarchy with the party's vision for a fairer, more representative Scotland. He emphasized the potential for Scotland to thrive as an independent republic, free from antiquated ideas and customs, and where power rests with the people rather than being passed down like a family heirloom.
7. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/19158204.scottish-greens-issue-new-calls-monarchy-abolished/> - In March 2021, Scottish Greens co-leader Patrick Harvie reiterated the party's opposition to the monarchy, stating that recent revelations about the royal family underscore the need to abolish the institution. He advocated for an independent Scotland with an elected head of state, describing the monarchy as an 'outdated, discredited and totally undemocratic institution.' Harvie suggested that the royal family's estates could be repurposed to serve local communities and create jobs.