# Calls for solidarity: Scottish Government urged to support Americans impacted by Trump policies



John Swinney, Scotland's Deputy First Minister, has been urged to demonstrate solidarity with American citizens affected by policies initiated under the Donald Trump administration. Patrick Harvie, co-leader of the Scottish Greens and a vocal critic of the US President, expressed his concerns regarding the implications of these policies on ordinary Americans. Harvie highlighted that the relationship between Scotland and the United States should extend beyond economic interests and business ties.

The critical comments from Harvie come in the wake of Swinney’s official visit to Tartan Week in New York City. During this trip, which took place earlier this month, Swinney focused on promoting Scottish exports and strengthening ties with American investors, although Harvie contended that it is equally important for the Scottish Government to engage with those facing the consequences of Trump's administration.

The Green MSP pointed to the recent "purge" of federal employees, including climate scientists, due to the controversial Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) implemented by Elon Musk, which has resulted in the dismissal of over 280,000 US civil servants from 27 government agencies. Harvie stressed the importance of a strong ethical stance, stating, “I would like to hear a lot more emphasis on what the Scottish Government can do to build a relationship with those who are at the sharp end of this." Furthermore, he questioned whether Swinney had met with migrants' rights organisations, cultural entities, or other groups adversely affected during his visit.

In his remarks, Harvie remarked, “The economic relationship matters - but it needs to be rooted in solidarity with people who are at the sharp end of a very brutal and dangerous regime.” His calls for solidarity come at a time when Trump is anticipated to make a visit to Scotland this summer as part of a broader state visit to the UK.

Harvie further indicated that if Swinney were to meet Trump, it should be met with protest, expressing hope that SNP members would wish to represent opposition to the President. He alluded to his previous contentious exchanges with representatives of Trump, who labelled him a "national embarrassment" in response to Harvie's long-standing criticisms.

In contrast, a spokesperson for the Scottish Government stated, “Scotland enjoys deep and enduring links with the US, and Tartan Week is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate Scottish culture and to promote opportunities on both sides of the Atlantic.” They noted that Swinney's visit was focused on enhancing Scotland's standing as a prime location for business and promoting Scottish culture and influence.

The contrasting views underscore ongoing tensions regarding the balance between political diplomacy and humanitarian concerns, particularly against the backdrop of significant policy changes in the US under the Trump administration. As the political landscape evolves, both the Scottish Government and local political figures continue to navigate their positions on international relations and the moral implications of engagement with the US.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainer/snp-leadership-first-minister> - This article does not directly corroborate the article but provides context on John Swinney's leadership within the SNP, which informs his role in international relations.
* <https://www.gov.scot/publications/john-swinney-msp-accepts-nomination-first-minister-scotland> - This source details John Swinney's acceptance of the First Minister role but does not specifically address his interaction with the US or Trump policies.
* <https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps/john-swinney> - This URL provides details on John Swinney's roles and history but does not cover his recent diplomatic activities or comments on Trump's policies.
* <https://www.gov.scot/about/who-runs-government/first-minister/biography-john-swinney/> - This biography highlights John Swinney's career but does not address his views or actions regarding Trump or international relations.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article but does not provide additional corroboration beyond its own content.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Swinney> - Wikipedia's entry on John Swinney provides background information on his political career, which includes roles relevant to international relations.
* <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/john-swinney-urged-show-solidarity-35053159> - Please view link - unable to able to access data