

UN General Assembly Fourth Committee New York, October 5-13 2025

The purpose of this Liberation Scotland mission was to actively participate in the deliberations of the United Nations General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) - the 'C4 Committee' - in New York. Ambassadors Craig Murray, Professor Alf Baird, and JPTi representatives attended the UN C4 Committee formal proceedings and spoke in support of petitions by Non Self Governing Territories (NSGTs) - New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Western Sahara – on their cases for decolonization.

As part of the wider process of seeking UN NSGT listing for Scotland, it is important that Liberation Scotland is visible at the UN and establishes its profile and credentials through demonstration of support for other applicant nations to reassure them and the wider UN member states, that we understand and stand in solidarity with these sister colonized nations, as well as being concerned with our own case.

In addition to attending and speaking at these formal C4 proceedings, the Liberation Scotland delegation extended its network of diplomatic contacts within the UN and in particular with representatives from several 'friendly' nations who have informally indicated their support for Scotland's case (including those with whom we had discussions during our June 2025 mission to New York). This experience provided the Liberation Scotland team with a lasting operational and strategic foundation for continued successful engagement at the United Nations over the coming months.



Details of the importance and outcomes from this UN C4 event are discussed here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tfZ6al_Ihk&t=3443s

(Indyscotnews - *Going International: Taking Scotland to the UN*).

And a link to the video of the whole C4 event is provided here:

<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1u/k1ux1w9yeo>

(with Alf's intervention from 2hr 37 onwards and Craig's from 2hr 55 onwards).

The full written text version of Alf's statement is provided below.

In addition, Professor Alf Baird and his wife Lynda met with and provided Liberation Scotland information to the representatives of several UN national Permanent Missions, including: Norway, Thailand, Mexico, USA, Niger, Eswatini, Mozambique; Luxembourg, Palau, Yemen, Senegal, Bahamas.



Alf & Lynda also met with members of the Scots diaspora in the New York area and Alf gave a talk to several Caledonian Societies, including the Scottish-American Society of Rhode Island.

Alf & Craig were also interviewed on the 2 hour WAIB New York political radio show discussing our week here with hosts Randy Centrico and Reggie.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrQxvL5QRWg>



Prof Alf Baird Statement in support of New Caledonia: Decolonisation: The Reality of New Caledonia. Statement by Professor Alfred J. Baird, Co-Convener Liberation Scotland and Scholar of Postcolonial Studies. UN Fourth Committee, New York, 7th October 2025

“Chair, Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

“On September 24, 2025, the Kanak people, through the voice of the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), traditional and customary indigenous representatives, nationalist political parties, the EP-KNC and other active groups, resolutely proclaimed their desire to see the land of their ancestors achieve full sovereignty.

In accordance with General Assembly Resolution 1654 (XVI), the United Nations acknowledges an urgent need ‘to vigorously apply the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to all such Colonial Countries and Peoples’(1) Postcolonial theory confirms the choice facing the Kanak and all colonised peoples drained of their resources, their demographics manipulated, and culture marginalised, is between: • Independence, which is decolonization, liberation and self-recovery of culture, or; • Cultural Assimilation, which means continued exploitation and oppression, ultimately ending in the perishing of a people’s culture, identity and nation.

The Decolonization Framework¹) outlines critical aspects of societal power and control dominating the Kanak people and preventing New Caledonia’s independence. This reflects a colonial and hence oppressive and exploitative environment for indigenous people. As colonial oppression is ethnically oriented, independence depends on the of the oppressed ethnic group, in this instance the Kanak people. Decolonization has the same goal it has always had: removing colonial oppression and economic exploitation in all its forms; rejecting an aggressive political and Imperial ideology, and; replacing imposed colonial institutions and alien cultural values which include ‘the crushing of the colonized’.

The reclaiming of constitutional sovereignty by the indigenous Kanak people must become an unambiguous societal reality ensuring the rights of the people to full self-determination, a people and culture no longer subject to external interference and control over their nation’s affairs, territory, resources, culture and future development. The Decolonization Framework predicts that the colonial or ‘administrative’ power acts to block self-determination and independence, including reverting to force. And so, we have seen the militarization of the territory since May 2024.

The colonial power always behaves in bad faith – the Bougival process did not include prior consent and consultation with customary institutions in contradiction with the final observations of the Human Rights Committee of October 2024. And so, we see the absence of political negotiations conducted in good faith and the absence of signature of the Bougival draft agreement. Not unexpectedly, the Bougival agreement is rightly rejected by the independence and customary institutions.

Such rejection reflects the contradiction of the Bougival agreement with the Noumea Accord and the principle of irreversibility of the self-determination process (article 5 AdN).

¹ <https://wp.towson.edu/iajournal/files/2022/05/The-Socio-Political-Determinants-of-Scottish-Independence.pdf>

Finally, there is the dubious plan of the French State to implement the draft Bougival agreement in spite of the absence of consent of the Kanak representatives – in open violation of Resolutions 1514, 1541 and the Noumea Accord. And here we are further reminded that colonialism is 'force'. Chair, colonial oppression remains the same whether it exists in New Caledonia or Old Caledonia, Kenya or Corsica, Mauritius or Martinique, Paraguay or Palestine. While many former colonies now UN Member States have decolonized the job is far from finished.

The Decolonization Framework reminds us that colonialism is a racist ideology, lacking in human values; whenever colonialism is imperilled, it reveals its fangs, being also regarded as the origin of fascism. Here the colonizer treats colonial subjects as animals and in turn ends up behaving like a beast himself, as we see in Gaza, and as we have seen around the world many, many times.

Today as in Roman Empire times the only bulwark against Imperialism and corporate-military colonialism are the nations themselves; liberating colonized peoples' and strengthening this bulwark was the intent behind the creation of the United Nations. For many peoples even the continued presence of the colonizer represents oppression.

Former colonies now UN Member States should not pull the liberation ladder up behind them, or think themselves totally free post-liberation. So long as a few Imperial 'bully' powers remain rampant, exploiting peoples and blocking their right to full self-determination, world peace will remain a forlorn hope. In recent decades the reality is that the United Nations has been diverted onto numerous other matters, taking its mind away from the core purpose – world peace and economic development through self-determination of peoples and decolonization.

Let us also remember that the scourge of colonialism is a crime against humanity. We therefore urge the Fourth Committee to prioritise an inscription of all metropolitan colonized territories on the UN list of NSGT's, to decolonize in order to avoid irrational policies, violations of human rights and the continual blockage of the right to self-determination in New Caledonia and other colonized peoples and nations. And in finally ending fruitless discussion of worthless colonial treaties that are always written in the interest of the colonizer, at endless cost and conflict for colonized peoples. Thank you."