

**Constitution of a Free and Independent Scotland**

This Constitution is presented in full knowledge of the challenges and responsibilities that come with national independence. It is deliberately thorough — a foundation for a modern, inclusive, and forward-looking Scotland; a nation stepping confidently into the world guided by justice, democracy, sustainability, and radical democratic renewal.

**Preamble**  
We, the people of Scotland, united by our shared history, culture, and enduring aspiration for self-determination, do solemnly declare Scotland to be a free, sovereign, and democratic nation.  
  
Affirming the principle of popular sovereignty, and inspired by the legacy of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Claim of Right, and the democratic mandates of 2014 and 2021, we establish this Constitution to secure liberty, justice, and dignity for all who live here.  
  
We reaffirm the rule of law and the distinct and historic tradition of Scots law, declaring that sovereignty resides permanently in the people and not in any institution or crown.  
  
This Constitution shall be the supreme law of Scotland. It is a living covenant of equality, sustainability, and solidarity. We commit ourselves to peaceful governance, environmental stewardship, and cooperation with peoples and nations everywhere, for the good of current and future generations.

## Article 1: National Sovereignty and Statehood

1. Scotland is a free and independent democratic state, deriving all sovereignty from the people of Scotland.  
2. The territory of Scotland shall comprise all its historic lands, islands, airspace, and territorial waters, including the Shetland, Orkney, and Hebridean Isles.  
3. Edinburgh shall be the capital of the state and the seat of its principal institutions.  
4. The official languages of Scotland shall be English, Scots, and Gaelic, each afforded equal status in public life. The State shall promote and protect linguistic and cultural heritage.  
5. National sovereignty shall not be alienated or transferred except by direct and informed consent of the people in a free and fair referendum.

## Article 2: Citizenship

1. Citizenship shall be granted to all persons born in Scotland or naturalised under law. Dual citizenship shall be permitted.  
2. Citizens of Scotland are equal under the law and enjoy the rights, protections, and responsibilities established by this Constitution.  
3. The rights of citizenship may only be revoked in accordance with due process and international law.

## Article 3: Rights and Freedoms

1. Every citizen shall enjoy fundamental civil, political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental rights, which shall be enforceable by law.  
2. These rights shall include, but are not limited to:  
 a. The right to life, liberty, and security of the person.  
 b. Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, and peaceful assembly.  
 c. The right to privacy, data protection, and personal dignity.  
 d. The right to education, healthcare, housing, social security, food, water, and a clean environment.  
 e. The right to work, fair pay, collective bargaining, and to join and form trade unions.  
 f. Protection against discrimination on any ground.  
3. Children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly shall enjoy special protection and support.  
4. The exercise of these rights shall not be subject to arbitrary limitation and shall be upheld by the judiciary.

### Article 4: Independent Constitutional Commission

1. An Independent Constitutional Commission shall be established by this Constitution as a permanent public body to safeguard constitutional integrity, democratic principles, and the rights of the people of Scotland.
2. The Commission shall have the authority to:

a. Monitor compliance with this Constitution by all public authorities, institutions, and officials.

b. Review and assess proposals for constitutional amendments, emergency declarations, and exceptional legislation.

c. Advise the Parliament of Scotland on matters concerning constitutional law, institutional design, and democratic accountability.

d. Conduct periodic reviews of constitutional performance and recommend reforms.

e. Engage in public education to promote civic understanding of constitutional rights and responsibilities.

f. Facilitate public consultation in constitutional development, reform, or interpretation.

g. Issue advisory opinions on proposed laws or government actions that may affect constitutional protections.

1. The Commission shall be composed of:

a. Members appointed through an open and independent process, including representatives of legal academia, civic society, youth, and minority communities.

b. At least one-third of members shall be under the age of 40 at the time of appointment, to ensure intergenerational representation.

c. No sitting member of Parliament or government shall serve on the Commission.

1. The Commission shall publish an independent Annual Report on the Constitution, which shall be tabled in Parliament and made publicly available.
2. The Commission shall have the power to refer constitutional matters to the Constitutional Court for ruling, if constitutional violations or ambiguities are found.
3. The Commission shall be guaranteed independence in law, funding, and operation, and shall not be subject to political interference.

## Article 5: Parliamentary Structure and People’s Assembly

1. Scotland shall have a democratic form of government comprising three separate and independent branches: Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary.  
2. The Head of State shall be the President (or First Minister), elected directly by the people for a renewable five-year term.  
3. The Executive shall administer laws and represent the State in international affairs.  
4. The Legislature shall consist of:  
  a. The Parliament of Scotland of Scotland – the principal legislative chamber, composed of representatives elected by proportional representation.  
  b. The People’s Assembly – a second chamber of citizens, young people, academics, unions, and regional representatives, providing civic oversight and deliberation.  
5. Legislation shall require approval by both chambers.  
6. No person shall serve simultaneously in more than one branch of government.

## Article 6: The Judiciary

1. Judicial authority shall be vested in an independent system of courts, guided by Scottish legal tradition and international human rights law.  
2. The highest court shall be the Constitutional Court, empowered to interpret this Constitution and adjudicate constitutional disputes.  
3. Judges shall be appointed by an independent Judicial Council and confirmed by the Parliament of Scotland.  
4. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty by law.  
5. Torture, arbitrary detention, and the death penalty are prohibited.

## Article 7: Regional and Local Government

1. Scotland shall be divided into local authorities and regional governments with democratically elected councils.  
2. Local governments shall have financial autonomy and authority over education, healthcare, transport, housing, and local development.  
3. The Constitution guarantees the existence of local government and its protection from arbitrary dissolution.

## Article 8: Environment and Future Generations

1. Scotland recognises the right of future generations to a clean, safe, and sustainable environment.  
2. The State and all citizens have a duty to protect biodiversity, reduce emissions, and prevent environmental degradation.  
3. Environmental rights are enforceable by law and incorporated into national development planning.

## Article 9: Economic and Social Principles

1. The economy of Scotland shall be based on principles of social justice, solidarity, and ecological sustainability.  
2. The State shall:  
 a. Ensure full employment, decent work, and economic opportunity for all.  
 b. Promote small businesses, cooperatives, and sustainable industries.  
 c. Maintain public ownership or regulation of essential services such as energy, water, health, and transport.  
3. Economic policies shall serve the welfare of the people and not the enrichment of the few.

## Article 10: Medical Protection of Children

1. All children shall have the right to necessary medical care, regardless of the religious or philosophical beliefs of their guardians.  
  
2. The refusal of life-saving or essential medical treatment — including blood transfusions, vaccinations, transplants, or emergency interventions — shall not be permitted when it places a child’s life, health, or development at serious risk.  
  
3. In all such cases, the welfare of the child shall take precedence over the rights of guardians, parents, or belief systems.  
  
4. The State shall ensure medical authorities and child welfare institutions are empowered to act in the best interests of the child, with court oversight where necessary.  
  
5. Religious freedom shall be respected, but not at the expense of the physical well-being or life of a child.

## Article 11: Right to Rebellion Against Tyranny

1. The people of Scotland retain the right to resist and reject any system of governance that becomes tyrannical, oppressive, or unresponsive to their democratic will.  
  
2. This right shall be exercised through peaceful, democratic, and constitutional means, including civil disobedience, public assembly, and the formation of alternative representative institutions.  
  
3. No provision of law or authority shall criminalise the people's effort to seek liberty, justice, and self-determination, provided such efforts remain non-violent and grounded in democratic legitimacy.  
  
4. This article affirms that sovereignty resides with the people, and that no government is legitimate that acts against their collective and freely expressed will.

## Article 12: Judicial Review Process

Any citizen of Scotland shall have the right to challenge the constitutionality of any law or governmental action before the Constitutional Court. The Court shall be empowered to annul such laws or actions if found incompatible with this Constitution. Procedures for filing such challenges shall be determined by law and shall be accessible to all individuals without undue burden or delay.

## Article 13: Constitutional Court Rules

Judges of the Constitutional Court shall serve a single term of nine years and shall be appointed by the President with approval of two-thirds of the Parliament of Scotland. Judges may only be removed by impeachment proceedings based on serious misconduct or incapacity, initiated by the People’s Assembly. The Court shall have sole authority to interpret this Constitution and resolve disputes between branches of government or levels of authority.

## Article 14: Language Protection Law

The State shall actively protect and promote the use of Gaelic and Scots. Public services, education, and media shall be accessible in these languages. A National Language Commission shall be established to ensure their revitalisation, preservation, and development across all regions of Scotland.

## Article 15: Indigenous and Historical Rights

Scotland recognises the historical and cultural rights of communities in the Highlands and Islands, including traditional land use, local governance practices, and heritage preservation. These rights shall be protected under national law and in accordance with international obligations such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

## Article 16: Digital Rights and Artificial Intelligence Protections

All citizens shall have the right to data privacy, secure communication, and transparency in digital governance. The use of algorithms and artificial intelligence in public decision-making must be accountable, explainable, and subject to human oversight. Discrimination by automated systems shall be prohibited by law.

## Article 17: Youth Rights and Participation

Youth under the age of 25 shall have the right to participate in civic and political life, including through dedicated representation in the People’s Assembly. The State shall ensure access to education in democracy and constitutional rights, and support youth-led organisations and initiatives.

## Article 18: National Audit Office

An independent National Audit Office shall be established to oversee all public finances, ensure transparency in government expenditure, and prevent misuse of public funds. It shall report directly to both the Parliament of Scotland and the People’s Assembly on a quarterly basis, and its findings shall be made public.

## Article 19: Constitutional Review Period

This Constitution shall be subject to a comprehensive public review ten years after its ratification. A Constitutional Review Commission shall be formed, composed of legal experts, civic leaders, youth representatives, and members of both legislative chambers. Any proposed amendments must be approved through the procedures set out in Article X.

## Article 20: Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1. Scotland shall uphold the right to seek asylum and shall offer refuge to individuals fleeing persecution, conflict, violence, or humanitarian crises, in accordance with international law and human rights obligations.  
  
2. The State shall ensure fair, transparent, and timely asylum procedures, with protection against arbitrary detention, deportation, or discrimination on the basis of origin, religion, political belief, or other status.  
  
3. Asylum seekers and refugees shall have the right to safety, shelter, healthcare, education, and legal representation while their status is determined.  
  
4. The dignity and humanity of all displaced persons shall be respected, and policies shall prioritise family unity, trauma-informed care, and community integration.  
  
5. The State shall cooperate with international organisations and neighbouring countries to ensure a humane, coordinated, and rights-based approach to refugee protection.

## Article 21: Cultural Integrity and Civic Integration

1. Scotland is a nation rooted in centuries of cultural heritage, shared values, and democratic traditions. The State shall protect and promote this identity for current and future generations.  
  
2. All those who choose to make Scotland their home shall be welcomed with dignity, and shall be expected to respect the constitutional principles of equality, freedom, and democratic governance that define Scottish public life.  
  
3. To support this, a Civic Integration Charter shall be established, offering all new residents the opportunity to understand and embrace:  
 - The Scottish Constitution and its guarantees of rights and responsibilities  
 - The importance of gender equality, freedom of belief, and non-discrimination  
 - The cultural heritage, history, and national languages of Scotland  
  
4. Migration policy shall be managed with fairness, transparency, and sustainability. The State shall take into account population needs, economic capacity, community balance, and the long-term preservation of cultural and social cohesion.  
  
5. While Scotland will always honour its humanitarian responsibilities and international commitments — especially in offering refuge to those in danger — it reserves the right to ensure that all who settle here do so in a spirit of mutual respect and shared values.  
  
6. Practices or ideologies that seek to undermine Scotland’s democratic foundations, infringe upon the rights of others, or reject the principles of peaceful coexistence shall have no place in the civic life of the democratic state.

## Article 22: Environmental Rights and Responsibilities

1. Every person in Scotland shall have the right to a clean and healthy environment, including clean air, water, and land.  
  
2. The State shall protect the environment for present and future generations, ensure biodiversity, and combat climate change through science-based policy.  
  
3. Environmental protection shall be integrated into all levels of public policy, infrastructure, and national development strategies.  
  
4. The State shall enact laws to reduce pollution, promote sustainable energy, and preserve natural ecosystems.  
  
5. Citizens shall have the right to participate in environmental decision-making and to access environmental justice in courts of law.

## Article 23: Emergency Powers, Constitutional Review, and Democratic Safeguards

1. This Constitution is the supreme law of Scotland. All legislative, executive, and judicial actions must comply with it.  
2. In times of war, disaster, or national crisis, Parliament may declare a state of emergency by a two-thirds vote.  
3. Emergency powers must be strictly limited to 30 days and must be reviewed for proportionality.  
4. Fundamental rights may not be suspended under any circumstance.  
5. All emergency actions are subject to judicial review by the Constitutional Court.  
6. A Constitutional Review Commission shall convene every 10 years to evaluate and propose amendments.  
7. Amendments to this Constitution require a two-thirds majority in Parliament and ratification by referendum.  
8. The Constitutional Court may strike down any law or act that violates constitutional safeguards or due process.

## Article 24: Anti-Corruption and Government Accountability

1. Public officials shall act in the public interest and shall be held to the highest standards of transparency, ethics, and integrity.  
  
2. A National Anti-Corruption Commission shall be established with independent powers to investigate and prosecute misuse of public office and resources.  
  
3. All public officials shall declare financial interests and assets annually.  
  
4. Citizens shall have the right to access government records and decisions through a Freedom of Information framework.  
  
5. Whistleblowers shall be protected by law against retaliation or prosecution when exposing corruption.

## Article 25: Judicial Appointments and Oversight

1. Judges of the Constitutional Court and High Courts shall be nominated by an independent Judicial Appointments Board.  
2. The Board shall comprise legal professionals, civic society representatives, and members appointed by Parliament.  
3. All appointments require confirmation by a two-thirds vote of the Parliament of Scotland.  
4. Judges shall serve for fixed, renewable terms, and may be removed only by constitutional procedure.  
5. The judiciary shall be independent, impartial, and bound only by the Constitution and the law.

## Article 26: Right to Digital Privacy and Data Sovereignty

1. All individuals shall have the right to digital privacy and ownership of personal data.  
  
2. The State shall regulate the collection, storage, and use of data to prevent surveillance, discrimination, or misuse.  
  
3. Citizens shall have the right to know, control, and delete data held about them by public or private entities.  
  
4. Automated decision-making must remain transparent, accountable, and subject to human appeal.  
  
5. The State shall promote public control of digital infrastructure critical to national sovereignty.

## Article 27: Direct Democracy and Popular Sovereignty

1. Citizens shall have the right to propose and vote on national referenda concerning major constitutional or policy questions.  
  
2. A national referendum may be triggered by a petition signed by at least 5% of the electorate or by two-thirds of the People’s Assembly.  
  
3. All referenda must adhere to democratic standards and be overseen by an independent Electoral Commission.  
  
4. Citizens may also initiate recall votes or non-binding votes of no confidence against public officials.

## Article 28: Education, Science and Innovation

1. Every citizen shall have the right to free, quality education at all levels.  
  
2. The State shall guarantee academic freedom and promote scientific research, critical thinking, and public access to knowledge.  
  
3. Education shall foster democratic values, social responsibility, environmental awareness, and respect for cultural diversity.  
  
4. The State shall support open access to publicly funded research and innovation.

## Article 29: Impeachment of the Head of State

1. The President (or First Minister) may be impeached for serious misconduct, breach of constitutional duties, or incapacity.

2. Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by a two-thirds vote of the Parliament of Scotland.

3. The Constitutional Court shall preside over the impeachment trial and determine the outcome.

4. A conviction requires a two-thirds majority of the Constitutional Court. Upon conviction, the President shall be removed from office immediately.

## Article 30: Democratic Continuity and People's Assembly Oversight

In the event that the Parliament of Scotland is unable to perform its legislative functions due to suspension, gridlock, or failure to form a government, the People's Assembly shall assume provisional democratic oversight. It may conduct public consultations, oversee urgent executive functions, and issue advisory resolutions. These powers shall expire upon lawful reconstitution of Parliament and shall be subject to judicial review.

1. An Independent Monetary Authority shall be established to manage Scotland's currency, monetary policy, and financial stability.

2. The Authority shall operate independently of political control and report to the Parliament of Scotland annually.

3. Its mandate shall include ensuring low inflation, employment, and safeguarding the value of the national currency.

## Article 31: Defence, Peace, and International Relations

1. Scotland shall maintain only such armed forces as are necessary for national defence, humanitarian relief, and international peacekeeping.

2. Armed forces shall be under democratic civilian control and used only in accordance with the Constitution and international law.

3. Scotland affirms its commitment to peace, non-aggression, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

4. Scotland shall remain a non-nuclear nation and shall prohibit the manufacture, storage, or deployment of nuclear weapons on its territory.

5. The State shall not acquire, maintain, or permit weapons of mass destruction, including biological and chemical weapons.

6. The government shall seek cooperative relationships with the United Nations, the European Union, and other international organisations that uphold democratic values.

7. Treaties must be ratified by the Parliament of Scotland and may not contravene this Constitution.

## Article 32: The Monarchy and Popular Sovereignty

1. Scotland shall be a sovereign democratic nation in which all authority derives from the people.

2. The future role of the monarchy, if any, shall be determined by the people of Scotland through democratic means.

3. Should the monarchy be retained in any form, it shall hold no governing power and shall serve only an honorary and symbolic role.

4. All noble or hereditary titles shall be recognised solely as ceremonial distinctions, conferring no legal status, privilege, or authority.

5. The sovereignty of the people shall remain supreme and inalienable, regardless of any ceremonial or symbolic offices.

## Article 33: Religion and the Kirk

1. Scotland shall observe strict separation between religion and the State.

2. The Church of Scotland (the Kirk), as well as all other faith communities, shall be free to practise, organise, and worship without interference.

3. The historical and cultural significance of the Kirk shall be respected, but no religious institution shall hold official status or governmental authority.

4. Public funds shall not be used to support religious institutions, except where applied equally for social or charitable benefit among all faiths and belief groups.

5. No citizen shall be compelled to adhere to or fund any religious belief, and religious affiliation shall not determine legal rights, responsibilities, or public service.

## Article 34: Cultural and Community Rights

The State shall recognise and protect the cultural rights of national, linguistic, and ethnic communities, including the right to preserve and develop their identity, language, traditions, and institutions.

Indigenous and historical communities shall be consulted in decisions affecting their lands, heritage, or way of life.

Cultural rights shall be exercised in harmony with the Constitution and the rights of all citizens.

## Article 35: Public Services and Ombudsman

Every citizen shall have the right to access public services in a fair, timely, and effective manner.

A National Public Services Ombudsman shall be appointed to investigate complaints about government departments and public bodies and to recommend remedies and improvements.

The Ombudsman shall report annually to the Parliament of Scotland and the People’s Assembly.

## Article 36: Public Health and Crisis Response

The State shall ensure access to public health services and take necessary steps to protect public health, especially during pandemics and emergencies.

The right to accurate public health information, non-discrimination, and timely care during health crises shall be guaranteed.

Public health decisions shall be transparent and subject to legal oversight.

## Article 37: Charter of Children’s Rights

All children shall have the right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. They shall be entitled to identity, education, healthcare, family life, and civic participation. They shall also have the right to rest and play, appropriate to their age and development.

All children have the right to protection from abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Every child shall have the right to identity, family life, education, healthcare, and participation in decisions affecting them.

The State shall ensure that the best interests of the child are the primary consideration in all matters concerning children.

## Article 38: Territorial Integrity of Scotland

1. The territory of Scotland shall comprise all historic and constitutionally recognised lands, internal waters, islands, airspace, and territorial seas traditionally held by the Scottish nation, including but not limited to the Highlands, Lowlands, Central Belt, Southern Uplands, the Hebrides, Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, and all other adjacent islands.

2. The land border of Scotland shall follow the historical and legally recognised boundary established by the Treaty of York (1237) and reaffirmed by the Treaty of Edinburgh–Northampton (1328), running from the Solway Firth in the west to the River Tweed near Berwick-upon-Tweed in the east. This shall be the permanent and lawful boundary between Scotland and England unless altered by democratic consent of the Scottish people.

3. Scotland’s territorial sea shall extend up to 12 nautical miles from the baseline, in accordance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Full sovereignty shall apply to all areas within this territorial sea, including rights over natural resources, environmental protection, and maritime enforcement.

4. Scotland’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) shall extend up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline, or to the median line where maritime boundaries with neighbouring states apply. Within this zone, Scotland shall exercise sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing natural marine resources, including fishing, offshore energy, and seabed minerals.

5. The State shall take all necessary steps to ensure international recognition and enforcement of Scotland’s continental shelf rights beyond the EEZ, in accordance with UNCLOS and subject to international legal determination.

6. The Scottish Adjacent Waters Boundaries Order 1999, which unilaterally altered Scotland’s maritime boundaries for administrative and licensing purposes, shall be deemed invalid. Scotland reasserts its full historic maritime jurisdiction and resource rights as they existed prior to that Order, particularly in the Firth of Forth, Moray Firth, and sectors of the North Sea rich in hydrocarbon deposits.

7. The Parliament shall legislate to define technical coordinates and geodetic baselines for the purpose of maritime claims, consistent with historical precedent and international law.

8. No portion of Scotland’s territory, land or sea, may be ceded, transferred, or placed under foreign control without the express and informed consent of the Scottish people in a free and fair referendum. The integrity and unity of the Scottish nation shall be inviolable.

## Article 39: Right to Housing

Every person has the right to adequate housing that is safe, accessible, and affordable.

The State shall take reasonable legislative and policy measures to progressively realise this right and to prevent homelessness.

Individuals shall have access to legal recourse in cases of inadequate housing or forced eviction.

## Article 40: Natural Resources and Public Ownership

Natural resources including water, minerals, forests, and coastal areas shall be held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.

These resources may not be sold, privatised, or otherwise alienated except through legislation approved by two-thirds of the Parliament of Scotland.

The use and conservation of natural resources shall prioritise sustainability, equity, and the public good.

## Article 41: Declaration of Sovereignty

All political power and authority in Scotland emanates from the people.

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and all other laws and acts of government shall derive their legitimacy from it.

The doctrine of UK parliamentary sovereignty shall no longer apply to Scotland; it is replaced entirely by the principle of popular sovereignty.

## Article 42: Rule of Law

Scotland shall be governed according to the rule of law.

All persons and institutions are subject to and accountable under this Constitution and the laws enacted under it.

## Article 43: Common Law and Legal Continuity

Scots common law shall continue in force and may be developed by the courts, provided it is consistent with this Constitution and legislation enacted under it.

## Article 44: Treaties and International Law

International agreements shall have legal force only to the extent that they are consistent with this Constitution and are approved by the Parliament of Scotland.

Scotland shall remain committed to upholding international law, including the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Charter.

## Article 45: Transitional Provisions

1. Upon adoption of this Constitution, all sovereign powers shall be vested in the Parliament and Government of Scotland.  
2. UK authority shall cease to have legal effect in Scotland. Existing laws consistent with this Constitution shall remain in force until amended or repealed.  
3. A Transitional Executive Committee shall oversee the continuity of public services, pensions, and administrative operations.  
4. Assets and liabilities shall be subject to negotiation with the UK Government, including Scotland’s proportionate share of public assets and debts.  
5. The Parliament may pass further transitional legislation as necessary to give full effect to this Constitution.

## Article 46: National Symbols and Identity

1. The national flag of Scotland shall be the Saltire. The Parliament may designate additional symbols by law.  
2. Scotland shall have a national anthem and state seal to be established by democratic process.  
3. The capital of Scotland shall be Edinburgh, which shall serve as the permanent seat of government.

## Article 47: Digital Sovereignty and Cybersecurity

1. The State shall protect the digital rights, privacy, and cybersecurity of all citizens.  
2. Scotland shall develop and maintain sovereign digital infrastructure.  
3. All personal and public data shall be protected in accordance with law and constitutional rights.

## Article 48: Constitutional Convention and Review

1. A Constitutional Review Convention shall be convened every twenty years to consider amendments or reforms.  
2. The Convention shall include elected citizens, legal experts, and representatives of civic society.  
3. Recommendations shall be subject to public referendum or parliamentary approval as provided by law.

## Article 49: Local Government and Community Autonomy

1. Local government shall be protected under this Constitution as an essential component of democratic governance.

2. Local councils shall have the power to legislate on matters affecting their jurisdictions, provided such laws do not contradict the national Constitution.

3. Communities shall have the right to elect local executive and legislative bodies and to manage local budgets through participatory processes.

4. A guaranteed and fair share of national revenue shall be allocated to local authorities, as defined by law.

## Article 50: Decentralised Legal Practices

1. Local and regional courts, including sheriffs and traditional dispute resolution bodies, shall maintain jurisdiction over applicable matters in accordance with Scots Law.

2. Customary and community-based legal practices shall be recognised where consistent with constitutional rights.

3. Legal innovation at the local level, including in restorative justice, shall be encouraged under national supervision.

## Article 51: Democratic Oversight and Citizen Participation

1. Citizens may propose legislation through a citizens’ initiative supported by at least 25,000 verified signatures.

2. Public consultation shall be mandatory on all major bills. Parliament must publish a summary of citizen responses.

3. A Citizens’ Oversight Panel shall be created, composed of randomly selected citizens to advise Parliament on major legislative issues.

4. People's Assemblies may be convened to deliberate on key constitutional or national questions.

## Article 52: Community Ownership and the Common

1. Communities shall have the right to acquire and manage local assets, including land and public buildings, for collective benefit.

2. The State shall protect the commons—forests, rivers, lochs, and public lands—from privatisation without democratic consent.

3. Public support shall be made available to facilitate community ownership initiatives.

## Article 53: Government Transparency and Open Data

1. Ministers and senior public officials shall publish records of meetings and engagements quarterly.

2. All government contracts, procurement activities, and lobbying records shall be made publicly accessible in real time.

3. The State shall ensure public access to open datasets related to budgets, environmental data, and institutional performance

**Article 54: Neurodiversity Rights**

1. The State shall guarantee the full equality, inclusion, and dignity of persons with disabilities and neurodivergent individuals.  
2. Equal access shall be provided in education, employment, public services, transportation, and the electoral process.  
3. The State shall provide reasonable accommodation and support systems to ensure the realisation of rights and independent living.  
4. Discrimination on the basis of disability or neurodiversity is prohibited in all areas of life.

**Appendix A: National Symbols**

1. The flag of Scotland shall be the Saltire, a white diagonal cross on a blue field.

2. The national anthem shall be designated by law following public consultation.

3. The national motto shall be: 'Scotland’s Future in Scotland’s Hands.'

4. Civic education shall be mandatory in schools to promote democratic engagement, constitutional values, and national history.

5. The national symbols of Scotland shall be as follows: national animal: unicorn; national flower: thistle; national tree: Scots pine.

**Appendix B: Civic Oath**

I pledge loyalty to the people of Scotland and to the Constitution of our Nation. I swear to uphold our democratic values, respect the rights of all citizens, and faithfully serve the public good.

**Appendix C: Transitional Provisions**

1. Until the first elections under this Constitution, a Transitional National Council shall oversee state functions and prepare electoral laws and institutions.

2. The Transitional Council shall consist of appointed delegates from the Provisional Parliament and civic society. An honorary preside shall be selected during this time.

3. The first elections shall be held within 12 months of ratification.

4. The Council shall begin negotiations for international recognition and cooperation immediately upon ratification.

5. A national referendum shall be held to approve this Constitution and initiate full implementation.