

The Bulletin



Immigration is a contentious issue around the world, but how can Scotland learn for the approaches taken by other countries? Cameron Boyle reports in this week's top story.



See all this week's stories at thenewfederalist.eu.



Panoramic view of Edinburgh
Credit: Deeann Arant, Pixy

A SCOTTISH IMMIGRATION SYSTEM: IS IT FEASIBLE?

BY CAMERON BOYLE

ON 28 JANUARY 2020, THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) RELEASED A REPORT ENTITLED 'A POINTS-BASED SYSTEM AND SALARY THRESHOLDS FOR IMMIGRATION', ESSENTIALLY FLESHING OUT HOW BEST TO STRUCTURE THE UK'S POST-BREXIT APPROACH TO IMMIGRATION.

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SCOTLAND'S REGIONAL DIVIDES NECESSITATE
AN APPROACH TO IMMIGRATION THAT GIVES
ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY- NOT JUST THE
POPULATION CENTRES- ACCESS TO THE
PEOPLE THEY NEED.



In spite of the considerable demographic and economic differences that exist between Scotland and the rest of the UK, the report advocates against providing Holyrood with a greater level of control. Curiously, it cites 'earning differences within regions and devolved administrations' being 'larger than those between them', or in other words, the disparity between Scottish regions is greater than the disparity between Scotland and the rest of the UK, and therefore a one-size-fits-all system makes sense.

With this in mind, it is important to assess the feasibility of a Scottish immigration system. Could it be used to remedy the intra-regional divides that the MAC mentions, and if so, how could it be structured? The MAC gives the divides between Scottish regions as a reason not to devolve control over immigration but says nothing about how to overcome said divides. England having similar regional divides to Scotland should not be a reason why Scotland is prevented from acting in its own best interests.

Regional Divides in Scotland

The report's acknowledgement of the stark regional divides in Scotland has a strong factual basis. Although the extract quoted above pertains to earnings differences, demographic divides are equally pronounced, with many areas outside the major cities experiencing serious depopulation. Drawing upon ONS data from 2015, a 2017 Migration Observatory report acknowledges that Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen have growing populations, while local authorities such as Inverclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, and North Ayrshire have declining populations. This adds substance to the MAC's focus on divides within regions- such as Scotland- rather than between regions- such as Scotland and the rest of the UK.

Read the full article on our [website](#).



Social Fabric

FRONTEX: WHAT IT IS, AND WHY IT MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE



Refugees crossing the Mediterranean sea, heading from the Turkish coast to the North-eastern Greek island of Lesbos, 29 January 2016.
Credit: Creative Commons

BY TERESA TRALLORI

After years of debate on its role and methods, it seems that a perfect storm is gearing up around Frontex, the “European border and coast guard agency”, as a series of accusations concerning human rights violations pile up against it.

What is Frontex?

Founded in 2004, Frontex is tasked with ensuring the security of the Schengen Area’s borders. While in its earliest days Frontex mainly had the role of coordinating the actions of each member state, since 2015, as the migrant crisis heightened, its tasks have gradually expanded, together with its budget. In the last few years, Frontex has conducted numerous operations in the Mediterranean Sea and the Balkans, working with both European and non-European nations to monitor and regulate the key routes of immigrations towards the EU.

Read the full article on our [website](#).



History and Culture

BELONGING WITHOUT BELIEVING : 'CULTURAL RELIGION' IN SECULAR SWEDEN

BY SOPHIE SIEVERT-KLOSTER

Less than a quarter of Sweden's population believe in God, but almost two-thirds of its population are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden. This paradox, Sophie Sievert-Kloster suggests, has less to do with religion in the traditional sense of the word, and more to do with cultural memory.

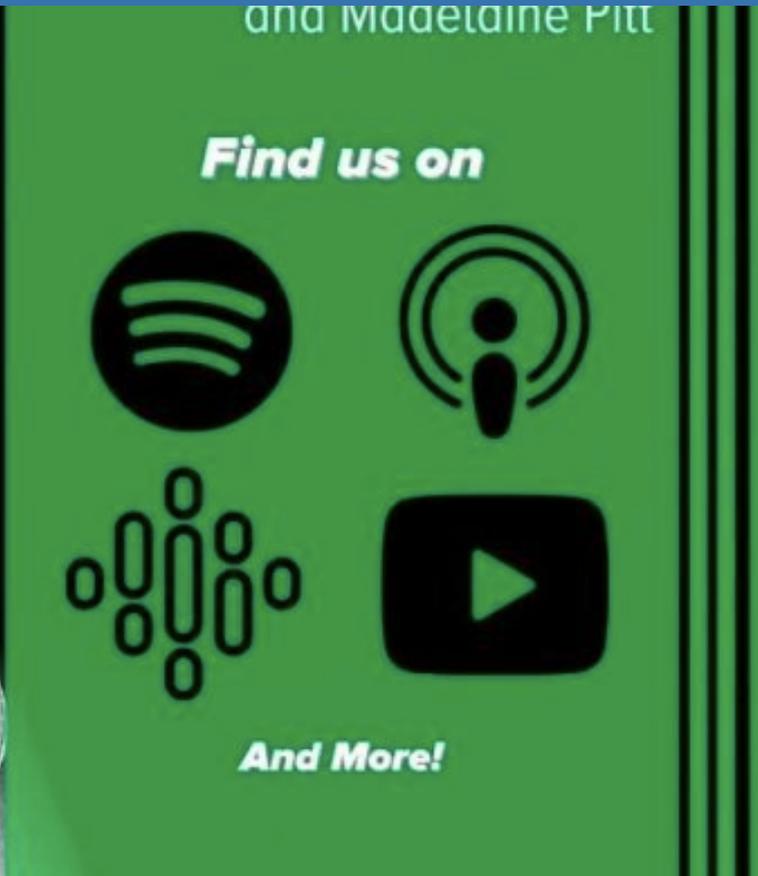
Read the full article on our [website](#).

“

IF SO FEW SWEDES BELIEVE IN GOD AND REGULARLY ATTEND CHURCH, WHY DOES THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN STILL HAVE SO MANY MEMBERS?

”





EUROPE@SCHOOL SOCIAL INCLUSION SERIES

Social inclusion is an ideal which people across Europe work to achieve every day, from policy makers to young volunteers. JEF Europe's Europe@School podcast has just released an eleven episode series highlighting this work, as well as taking a critical approach to the problems which still exist and how they tangibly impact the lives of young people in Europe.

Listen in [here](#).



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