



Dear Supporter,

After a tremendous 'Official' launch in London on 23rd November 2022, the Together UK Foundation (TUKF) has been building relationships with organisations, individuals, and members of political parties.

On December 8th, TUKF Board member Sheila Davidson impressively represented the organisation on the BBCNI politics programme "The View" with Mark Carruthers OBE, a show that focused heavily on discussing the new Foundation and its aims and objectives.

Women's Conference:

On Wednesday 25th January TUKF concluded its first event as over 100 invited ladies joined Baroness Arlene Foster and the TUKF Board for a 'Focus Group' women's conference at The Stormont Hotel in East Belfast.

The event was organised to address the issue that women, particularly working-class women, often complain that their voice is rarely listened to by political parties, with the unsurprising consequence that voter turnout can often be low.

The title of the event was "What has the UK ever done for us?" and consisted of a power point presentation of Fact Slides & video's showing the benefits of the Union accompanied by digital voting on multiple choice questions with real time results. There then followed a discussion session over lunch where the ladies expressed their opinions on the results of the voting & issues that matter most.

The data captured from the event will be used by TUKF to form a basis for future fact-based papers and thought leadership infographics that can be shared in the communities we are keen to inform and engage with.

We will also be rolling out the event across the other parts of Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, cross referencing the voting results to build a UK wide information base and to connect the different women's groups together, to help empower their collective voice in future elections.

Dublin Review of Books article by John Wilson Foster FRS:

Mr John Wilson Foster FRS, joint editor and contributing author of the tremendous book "The Idea of the Union" and supporter of Together UK Foundation has kindly given permission for the following article to be shared in the newsletter. Originally written for the 'Dublin Review of Books' and titled "A campaign for Irish unity? If you don't mind a civic war" is an excellent piece that I know you find extremely thought provoking.

[View the full blog here](#)

Rosemary Coogan:

Together UK Foundation would like to pay a huge tribute and pass on many congratulations to Belfast born Rosemary Coogan, who was selected as a new European Space Agency Astronaut on 23rd November 2022 from over 22,500 applications. This is a fantastic achievement for both Rosemary and 'The UK Space Agency', which leads the UK's civil space programme in order to win sustainable economic growth, secure new scientific knowledge and provide benefits to all citizens. The agency works to maximise UK benefits from space activities and to ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of global scientific excellence as well as in the exploitation of space infrastructure, products and services. We wish Rosemary much success in her career as a UK astronaut.

Opinion:

The erection of the EU customs boundary in the Irish sea, dividing Northern Ireland from Great Britain is an extremely dangerous act that is causing great tension for the Union and will continue to do so until the UK government come to understand that maintaining friction free internal trade by upholding the Act of Union is its sole priority. Indeed, the handing over of trading data for goods remaining in the UK market could in itself be seen as an act of treason and will have far reaching consequences, not least potential market manipulation by EU based supply chains.

In a separate development, the timing of which I am sure has been calculated to heap even more division on the fundamentals of the Union, the Scottish 'Gender Recognition Bill' brought in by the SNP, brings in its own way, as great a danger to the Union as the implementation of the Irish sea border, should the UK government not uphold the UK equalities act, in particular protecting 'Women's Rights' as a UK wide responsibility. Both the above issues have the potential to severely weaken the Union, should the UK government not act in the United Kingdom's best interest and remember we are better together.

I leave you with the below quote from John MacCormick, Founder SNP.

"I would say of Britain...that I would rather be in a minority in the island than anywhere else in the world. We grumble and complain against the powers that be; we prove to our own complete satisfaction that we are unfairly stifled and repressed; but we go on talking, and by infinitesimal stages our talk pushes our unwilling rulers along the road we want to go. I think it is the genius of the English that they are capable of being pushed; I think it is the genius of the Celtic peoples that we keep on pushing with all the fervour of minorities; and I think that these islands have given more to the World than any other conglomeration simply because we have here learned the meaning of give and take. I want a Scottish Parliament and a resurgence of Scottish nationality not because I hate the English...but because I believe that the new spurious and artificial nationalism of Greater London requires a counterpoise if what we all unconsciously recognise as British is to survive. The British Isles are, when all is said and done, the last refuge of those Europeans were refused to be conquered and, therefore, made their getaway. English and Scots, Welsh and Irish, whatever we are and whatever our origins, we have learned subconsciously to depend upon each other and to need even our rivalries with each other to make life interesting and worthwhile. We have become a microcosm of the world in which even hatred and intolerance have among us always been tempered by a sense of guilt. We can hang, disembowel, and quarter the so-called traitor in our midst, and we can then put up a statue to commemorate his heroism".

On behalf of Chairman Baroness Arlene Foster and the members of the board, thank you for all your support, we look forward to updating you on future Policy Development, Public Engagement & Events and wishing you a happy and healthy 2023.

Andrew Grocock,
CEO
Together UK Foundation

