

Scotland's Brexit Disaster - 3 years on.

Brief for local groups marking the third anniversary of Brexit, 31 January 2023

From "A Coalition of the Willing" doing our bit to help grassroots Yes connect to national events

Background

A major rally at Holyrood is being organised by the Time for Scotland team; its theme is 'lights on', with a [lighthouse/saltire logo](#). Believe in Scotland is also planning actions across Scotland over a period of a week or so. It's important for all of us to mark the Brexit anniversary as Scotland was forced out of the EU against our democratically expressed wishes, and the desire to be back in the EU is the key factor driving 2014 No voters to Yes.

Suggestions for local group actions

Not everyone can travel to the Holyrood rally, so we've collected ideas from local groups. Our suggestions are both simple and some more creative. If you're already planning something, great! There is a lot of emphasis on making widespread visual impact, by obtaining great photos and videos and sharing online. See details below on how to share your event.

Darkness....

1. Some groups are planning to show the 'dark side', i.e. Brexit harms, for a week till the 30th January, before the 'lights on' pro-indy / pro-EU theme of the rally. A set of 'Brexit harms' images is available from the [YesForEU website](#) which you can choose from as placards, or make your own. The plan is to take selfies with the placards, preferably in front of a well-known local landmark or town sign.

2. Post selfies on social media with the hashtags **#WeDidntVoteForThis** and **#BrexitHarmsScotland** which we want to get trending, and so they can be collated into a slideshow.

...into light

On the 31st Jan darkness turns into light: the Holyrood rally theme is 'lights on', putting the emphasis on the positivity of independence and EU membership.

1. If you are organising a local event on the 31st (or possibly on a weekend) evening events work well, making use of all sorts of lighting: fairy lights, lanterns, torches etc, against a photogenic background if possible. Rivers, harbours, lochs, bridges etc provide lovely reflections in the water! Use the hashtags **#DarknessIntoLight** and **#IndyLightsTheWay**. There will be a pull out poster in The National on the 31st, which you could put in your window with a battery tealight.

2. If you attract a good-sized crowd, great, but even a handful of people can provide good images. And there's no need to hang around for long in the cold and damp. Get your pictures and head home!

3. Some ideas with lights to get you started:

- A string of lights between two points, symbolises 'lights the way'.
- Make your own EU sign, from cardboard & xmas lights.
- "Indy Lights the Way" (or similar) in big letters with lights or luminous / reflective material, one letter per person (needs 8+ people all holding two letters).

Health and safety

Consider health & safety whatever type of event you choose to hold.

Share your action in advance to maximise publicity

As with the Supreme Court actions it can be arranged for actions to be published in advance via the TfS website and possibly the National. Tell TfS your plans by sending a (very short) email to info@timeforscotland.scot listing in 4 lines:

1. The location of your action (please include a postcode),
2. Time of your action, after dark being preferred
3. A short (one line) special message, like 'bring flags with your battery christmas lights attached'.
4. Your group name & how to get in contact, i.e. your local groups email address.

Please share your events widely with all your Yes contacts.