

Response from Donald Mackay, UKIP candidate for Central Scotland:

Are Christians and those of other faiths welcome to become members in your party, to participate within them and in the political process, without discrimination?

Christians are most certainly welcome to join UKIP. Our lead candidate in Glasgow attends Downanvale Free Church and at least two of the other 26 candidates are professing Christians.

Would your party support another cross-party group on religious freedom in Scotland at the Scottish Parliament?

Religious freedom is essential in any civilised society and UKIP would support any grouping which sought to protect this.

Do you think that Christianity has a role in the public square, especially in politics, education and the media?

Christianity most certainly has a role. The main problem is that too few Christians put their heads above the political parapet.

How will your party ensure Scotland has a strong influence protecting the rights of persecuted Christians around the world?

This election is primarily about the Scottish Parliament which has limited influence in terms of protecting persecuted Christians worldwide.

What is your party's position on state-funded faith schools, whether they be Christian or Muslim?

Our party is primarily concerned with enhancing the quality of education being provided to the young. The destruction of the selective school system in the 1970s was an act of educational vandalism. Not in favour of the state financing schools which promote a particular faith.

We believe a diversity of schools would create a healthy competition of ideas and outcomes and improve educational standards across the nation. Should Scotland lead the way by democratising our education system by allocating vouchers to parents to produce financial support for faith schools?

No. Either you have private schools or state schools where the emphasis is on academic quality not political indoctrination.

As the state education system becomes increasingly secular and removed from its Christian roots and values, if the Free Church were to set up its own schools, open to all, would you support this?

Yes, provided the Free Church pay for it.

Do you agree that children being bullied and taunted at school because they go to church should also be included in new anti-bullying advice being prepared by the Scottish Government?

Bullying should be dealt with by the parents and teachers. No advice requires to be given by the state.

Do you agree that sex education should be inclusive of a wide variety of options and views on the nature of sex and sexuality?

No. Sex education is a matter for parents or teachers where the parent has given consent.

Will your party support moves to reconsider the Sunday trading issue in Scotland so that we can move towards a more continental approach?

We would seek to ensure that working people would be able to keep the Sabbath without fear of repercussions from an employer.

Given that babies can survive at 24 weeks outside the womb, and that France, Germany and Italy have 12-week limits, is there any scientific or logical reason not to reduce the age limit on abortion in Scotland? Would you support a reduction in the time limit?

I am personally opposed to abortion full stop, though UKIP's policy is to hold a referendum on the subject.

Do you agree that the named person scheme needs to be refined, and if so, in what way?

The named person scheme needs to be put in the nearest dustbin.

What are your proposals to alleviate poverty in Scotland? How do you think that Government can work together with the churches on this?

People and expanding businesses alleviate poverty, governments don't.

Do you believe that we should accept more refugees in Scotland?

We should definitely NOT accept any more refugees into Scotland.

Do you think that children have the ability to choose their own gender? How many genders do you think there are?

There are boys and girls. That's it.