

Anthony Newman Speech Transcript
Scottish Conservative Conference
11am, 4 Feb 2016



Good morning conference.

I'm Anthony Newman the candidate for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the Central Region.

I also work as a social scientist at the University of Glasgow.

It is an honour to be speaking among so many high calibre speakers about holding the SNP to account.

In September 2015, Politics.co.uk published the headline: 'The SNP's record in government has escaped scrutiny for too long'.

And isn't that the case.

The SNP talk a good talk and make some very grand claims.

But in reality the SNP have focused on an agenda of Independence and taken their eye-off-the-ball when it comes to actually governing Scotland.

Not least when it comes to inequalities and diversity.

Notably, one of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes is to tackle 'the significant inequalities in Scottish society'.

And yet, according to The Herald, an SNP candidate, highly likely to be elected for the Central Region in May, has allegedly promoted the view that LGBT+ couples should not be allowed to adopt or foster children.

Furthermore, under the SNP, conditions in Scottish Schools for LGBT+ youth are inexcusable.

Here are some of the statistics from Stonewall Scotland's School Report 2012, courtesy of the TIE Campaign:

52% of LGBT+ youth have experienced homophobic bullying in Scottish schools.

26%, that is 1 in 4, have attempted suicide as a result - and 54% are regularly self-harming.

54% of LGBT+ youth do not feel part of their school communities.

42% of trans youth have left education due to transphobic bullying.

This is not only a shameful record for the SNP Government in terms of equality and diversity, it is also among the many serious concerns we have about the Scottish education system under SNP control.

While the SNP have obsessed about Independence, these Scottish children have suffered; and some have even attempted suicide because of bullying in Scottish Schools.

Therefore, when the Scottish Conservatives beat Labour to become the official opposition at Holyrood in May, I look forward to the SNP being held to account on such issues by our highly impressive leader Ruth Davidson.

Thank you.