UNITE SCOTTISH UNITY CONFERENCE

Solidarity with the Kurds

Conference condemns the recent violence carried out against the Kurdish community in Turkey and the use of curfews to terrorise inhabitants. A recent report by the Turkish Human Rights Foundation stated that 162 civilians (among them 29 adult women, 32 children and 24 people over the age 60) have been killed in the districts in South East Turkey where curfews have been declared.

Conference notes that peace negotiations between Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan, Kurdish politicians and Turkish government officials, which had taken place during a 2 year ceasefire by the PKK, were ended in early 2015 by Turkish President Erdogan and that since then there has been rising violence.

Conference notes the bomb in Diyarbakir in June 2015 where 6 died, the suicide bomb in Suruc where 32 died and the suicide bombs in Ankara at the trade union peace demonstration where over 100 died. In each of these cases evidence of state collusion or negligence has been presented.

Elected representatives of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) have been arrested, fired on and murdered before the June election, where they made a historic breakthrough to gain 13% of the national vote, and since.

Conference also notes that the Kurdish people in Rojava in Syria have heroically defended themselves and pushed back the barbarians of Daesh/ISIS whilst establishing democratic, secular and gender-equal administrations whilst the Turkish government allowed Daesh fighters, supplies and stolen oil to cross their borders and refused to do anything to stop the siege of Kobane.

In south Kurdistan in Iraq it has been PKK and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters who recently pushed Daesh out of Sinjar rescuing hundreds of Ezidi women whilst the Turkish government have bombed PKK bases, killing civilians.

Conference sends solidarity greetings to the victims of Turkish state violence and to those Kurdish people who are working for a democratic peace.

Conference agrees to

1. Make links with the Kurdish community in Scotland and to affiliate to Scottish Solidarity with Kurdistan;
2. Support the development of links with trade unions, women and youth groups in Turkey and Kurdistan and offer support in their efforts to build peace;
3. Support the efforts to rebuild Kobane and support the struggle against Daesh;
4. Write to the Turkish government calling on them to put a stop to the curfews and violence and to re-start peace negotiations with Kurdish leaders.

*Passed in January 2016.*