



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01515

Name of petitioner

Mick Napier

Petition title

Asylum in Scotland to Glasgow University Rector Edward Snowden

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to offer political asylum to Glasgow University's elected student Rector, Edward Snowden, in the event of a majority 'Yes' vote in the independence referendum in September.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have written to Ministers of the Scottish Government asking that they offer Edward Snowden asylum in the event of a majority for independence in the September referendum. The matter has been raised in face to face discussions with two Scottish Government Ministers, Mike Russell and Humza Yousaf, who have declined to support the aims of this petition.

Petition background information

Edward Snowden has revealed uncontested information on the extensive surveillance undertaken by the British GCHQ and the US NSA to the extent that they furtively collect all emails and text messages of every citizen. For this we owe him a debt of gratitude and the award of political asylum would be a demonstration of that gratitude.

Edward Snowden has said that he "intends to seek asylum in any country that believes in freedom of expression".

Edward Snowden is now the elected student Rector at Glasgow University, one of Scotland's most prestigious universities, while still a fugitive in Russia. The Russian Government wants him to leave and he wishes to leave Russia but is in danger of following Chelsea Manning into the US prison system for 35 years. He is a fugitive admired by millions for his courage in whistleblowing on illegal activities by the US Government, as did Daniel Ellsberg in revealing corrupt and dishonest behaviour by an earlier US Government.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/asylumscotlandforedwardsnowde>

Related information for petition**Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?**

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

100

Closing date for collecting signatures online

18 / 04 / 2014

Comments to stimulate online discussion

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Edward Snowden. Offering him asylum will express that gratitude, constitute a declaration of opposition to saturation surveillance of all its citizens from a future independent Scottish Government, and embolden whistleblowers everywhere to take a public stance against corruption, incompetence, sexual assaults, and other illegalities. It would signal a clean break with the intrusiveness of the UK security state and place a high value on the right to privacy in our everyday lives.