

RSS Local Action Groups

The RSS Campaign model

The 1996 Addendum to ICCPR Art 25

In 1996, to assist countries with implementation of the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR) Art 25, the UN Human Rights Committee issued a detailed explanatory Addendum which, in due course, will undoubtedly form the basis of Scotland's future constitution based on Popular Sovereignty (often referred to internationally as Modern Direct Democracy (DD)).

RSS's Campaign model follows a logical sequence of constitutional steps which are intended to establish, beyond any doubt, that in Scotland the People are sovereign. Prior to Independence, this will be a gradual process, grounded in real live issues like Pylons in the Highlands and the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Reform Bill (VWJR), and Art 25 will be the legal basis to convince local, regional and national authorities that Scotland's future lies with DD and DDD (Decentralised Direct Democracy).

The following extracts from the Addendum are key to RSS's Campaign model:

- **“Citizens also participate directly in the conduct of public affairs when they choose or change their Constitution or decide public issues through a referendum”**

(Comment 6).

Citizens control the Constitution through what are known as Popular Initiatives. Referendums are how citizens signify their agreement, or otherwise, to proposed legislation or other authoritative instruments.

- **“Citizens also take part in the conduct of public affairs by exerting influence through public debate and dialogue with their representatives or through their capacity to organize themselves”** (Comment 8).

Citizens organize themselves by collectively promoting and accepting international protocols for launching Initiatives and Referendums (such protocols normally include the percentage of the electorate necessary to launch Initiatives & Referendums and the period during which signatures must be obtained).

Although not mentioned in Art 25, Petitions are an essential element in the democratic process. Petitions can be signed by anyone, resident or not (i.e. the Scottish diaspora can sign Petitions), whereas the launching process for an Initiative or Referendum (i.e. “signature-gathering”) carries a residence requirement and voting by the entire electorate involves formal registration at the appropriate level of government (local, regional or national). The RSS model follows the same logic:

1. Local Action Groups mobilise public opinion via social media and ScotlandDecides.org (hubs, blogging and membership). The RSS Petition sign-up and e-mailing platform supports start-up campaigning for local, regional and national Petitions on reserved issues (devolved issues are handled using Parliament's Petitions system, as at present).
2. Once protocol thresholds appear achievable, reserved issues are registered as open campaigns with ScotlandDecides. Signatories register on the SD voting platform and a formal campaign is launched. A Campaign Committee manages each campaign, using the SD platform for communications and blogging, and SD monitors ongoing achievement of the threshold criteria (signature numbers and campaign timing).
3. After achievement of the threshold and, almost certainly, a period of intense political negotiation, in due course SD organises a formal vote of the entire electorate - Local, Regional or National - using its internationally recognised blockchain voting application process.

[Sign the ICCPR Petition for direct Political Rights](#)