

## **Welcome to the Indyref Project**

Thank you for your interest in this research project. Every contribution will add to a more varied and vibrant collection of indyref memories.

Below you can find various sections with different texts and images. Please look at the statements and pictures. These materials might bring back memories of the referendum debate. They are there to help you get started. You can engage with the images and texts as much or little as you would like in your responses.

The questions under each section are prompts to get you thinking. You do not need to answer each or any of them. Your responses can be as creative or literal as you would like. There are no right or wrong answers. The experiences you share are personal to you.

Please type or write down your answers on a separate piece of paper (or fill them in on this sheet) and submit a file, scan or picture of your responses using the [contact form](#) on the project webpage.

**When I think about the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, I think of.....**

## **Campaigning for or against Scottish independence:**

‘When I got back to the flat, there was a Better Together leaflet lying on the floor in the hall amongst the mail. It set me off. It was the exact moment when I became a Yes campaigner – an unusual moment of radicalization, which sounds childish when I think about it now. But, in any case, the real question was whether I could actually sit out the big one – this wasn’t an election after all, but something far more profound.’<sup>i</sup>

Questions to think about: Was there a moment during the campaign when you knew you wanted to get involved (with the Yes/No campaign)? Did you also feel that you would be unable to ‘sit out the big one’? What made the referendum debate and campaign special?

## Remembering the campaigning period:

# Scottish independence: Mass rallies mark referendum climax

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‘Compared with millions on the streets of Barcelona, or armed independence movements across the world, the 2014 referendum in Scotland was an understated affair. But behind the subdued façade, there was an undoubted surge in political activity. Doors were chapped, conversations were had, posters were blue-tacked onto windows. [...] Many of those who delivered flyers, manned stalls and tried to convince their friends, neighbours and colleagues to vote for independence say they intend to stay involved in some form of political activity.’<sup>iii</sup>

Questions to think about: How do you remember the campaigning period? Did you think activism played an important role during the referendum campaign? Did you become (politically) active during the campaign and have you continued to be so? (Through canvassing, party membership, public forums, private debates..?)

## The referendum debate:



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‘The campaign had produced two Scotlands, each of whose experiences of the referendum remain incomprehensible to the other.’<sup>v</sup>

‘This was Scotland as I had never seen it before.’<sup>vi</sup>

### Questions to think about:

Did the referendum encourage debate? How did you experience the conversations at the time? Do you think people with different opinions discussed the referendum openly? Was there communication between different ‘camps’? What role did the media play?

## Referendum day:

'It was a day like any other. She saw the twins off to school, kissed their father on his way out, then rapidly tidied the kitchen before leaving the house herself. [...]

On the way home she went to the polling place, a church hall. She handed over her card and received the ballot paper.

She had read and listened to all the arguments about the economy, assets, debts, pensions, oil, membership of this or that international organisation, but as she stood in the booth, pencil poised, none of them seemed to matter. What mattered was how she felt.

When she reached home she put the radio on for the news. The reader reported simply that voting was brisk. Of course he wasn't permitted to say anything that might influence those still to vote [...].<sup>vii</sup>

Questions to think about: How do you remember the day of the referendum (18 September 2014)? Was it a day like every other or was it special to you? Can you describe how you spent the 'referendum day'? Did you feel like your vote could make/made a difference?

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<sup>i</sup> Peter Lynch, *IndyRef to ScotRef. Campaigning for Yes* (Cardiff: Welsh Academic Press, 2017), 10.

<sup>ii</sup> 'Scottish independence: Mass rallies mark referendum climax, *BBC News* (17 Sept 2014), <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-29231440>

<sup>iii</sup> Peter Geoghegan, *The People's Referendum* (Edinburgh: Luath Press, 2014), 163.

<sup>iv</sup> Documenting Yes/Mhairi Law (18 Sept 2014), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/documentingyes/21046844178>

<sup>v</sup> Colin Kidd, 'After the Referendum,' *London Review of Books*, vol. 38, no. 2 (2016), <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v38/n04/colin-kidd/diary>

<sup>vi</sup> Peter Geoghegan, *The People's Referendum* (Edinburgh: Luath Press, 2014), 9.

<sup>vii</sup> James Robertson, excerpt from '18 September: The Right Thing,' in *365 Stories*, full text available online: <https://three-six-five.net/Stories-And-Music/September/18>