



NEWSREEL WORLD

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av Alanna Leslie

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today, we're heading to Nigeria, Australia and Zambia.

ALANNA LESLIE:

The countries of Scotland and England have been joined together for over 300 years as part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

But the future of this centuries-old political union is now looking uncertain as recent polls show a majority of Scots now support independence.

From the city of Glasgow, Leeanne Coyle can tell us more.

EILIS: "If we were to get Indy Ref 2, I would definitely be voting 'Yes to Independence'."

LEEANNE COYLE: This is Eilis.

The "Indy Ref 2" she's referring to is the proposed second referendum on Scottish independence.

When the first one was held in 2014, fifty-five percent of the population voted to stay in the United Kingdom.

Eilis was too young to vote first time round but said, back then, she was against independence.

So, why the turnaround?

EILIS: "Ever since the Brexit vote, where the majority of Scotland actually voted against Brexit, but then it went ahead anyway.



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That really worried me because it just felt like Scotland didn't really have a voice. It felt like our views were kind of being totally disregarded.

I think independence, it would just give Scotland more of its own voice. It would give Scotland more freedom and control.”

LEEANNE COYLE: The concept of Scotland being an independent country is not a new one.

The *Acts of Union* in 1707 legally joined Scotland and England.

After several failed attempts at Westminster, a Scottish parliament was finally re-established in 1999 with wide-ranging policy making and legal powers, but this was all dependent on finances from London.

For the past 10 years, The Scottish National Party (the SNP) has had a majority control of the parliament. This enabled it to demand the first independence referendum.

This nineteen-year-old is pro-Union. He wants to remain anonymous as he's worried about backlash from the pro-independence side for him and his family, especially online.

VOXER: “In 2014, Scotland voted to remain in the UK. Doesn't it seem a bit undemocratic if all of those people who voted to 'Remain's' votes aren't being heard?

What about their voices? Should they just be ignored because it doesn't fit the SNP's agenda?”

LEEANNE COYLE: He also has other concerns about security:

VOXER: “The reason I want to remain in the United Kingdom is for opportunity.

I think now we've just left the European Union, I think it would be silly to become independent of the UK and the European Union and go off on your own.

Keep the security you've got just now.”



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LEEANNE COYLE: But the fact remains in the past year, the latest polls suggest that young people overwhelmingly support independence, with some polls putting the support for ‘Yes’ as nearly three in every four.

20-year-old Liam thinks Scotland already has the hallmarks of a great country and would thrive under independent rule.

LIAM: “I believe that people are more politically wise and have realised what Scotland can do as an independent country.

Like, Scotland offers free education to everyone, for schools, colleges, universities.

I believe that education is just massive, that’s the way forward for people.”

LEEANNE COYLE: So, the question is: will Scotland get another referendum on independence?

Well, the SNP is pushing for one to be held when the Covid pandemic ends but, as it stands, Westminster will have to approve it, which means, for now, the centuries-old-argument will continue.

This is Leeanne Coyle for Newsreel World in Glasgow, Scotland.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks, Leeanne.

ALANNA LESLIE: A recent survey of Australians aged between fourteen and twenty-one has found that they’re getting much more support from their community when coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or gender diverse, compared with previous generations.

Over eighty-five percent of LGBTQA+ youth across Australia say they feel supported by friends, whilst fifty-six percent feel supported by their family across the country too.



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But although the survey points to substantial levels of acceptance and support, harassment and assault based on gender or sexuality is still a big problem, with forty percent of those surveyed saying they'd experienced harassment because of their sexuality.

ALANNA LESLIE: Now how would you fancy being paid just to watch football?

Seventeen-year-old Ashwin Rahman lives in Bangalore in India and is currently studying for his exams. But he's also landed a job as a talent scout and analyst for Scottish football club Dundee United.

Ashwin has been writing blogs and doing data analysis on footballers since he was thirteen and has been uploading his analyses to Twitter.

His work was spotted by Scottish football side Dundee United's chief scout Stevie Grieve, who slid into Ashwin's DMs on Twitter to offer him a job.

Ashwin has been working for the club part time since 2019, and in that time Dundee United have been promoted to the top league in Scottish men's football.

But his work has taken a backseat recently, because he has to concentrate on his exams.

ALANNA LESLIE: In Nigeria, a group of comedians are taking a stand against the country's rape culture by vowing never to tell jokes about rape or sexual assault.

They've produced a provocative video which has launched a debate among young people about whether making a joke out of a crime can desensitise people to the suffering endured by the victims.



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Anthonieta Kalunta reports from the city of Abuja.

And just a warning, this report does discuss sexual assault and rape.

Anthonieta Kalunta: Sexual abuse, including rape, happens all around the world.

According to a UNICEF report, twenty-five percent of Nigeria's girls and ten percent of Nigeria's boys were sexually abused before the age of eighteen.

Here in Nigeria, rape is often seen as an event that brings shame to a family.

Abusers and rapists tend to be people who are familiar to the victim: a family member, a pastor, a teacher, a neighbour, someone they are dating.

Now, over the past decade or so we've seen Nigerian comedians raise the issue of rape through jokes.

Basketmouth: "Well right now, we've learnt our lesson, I've learnt my lesson. Honestly I did and I'm sorry about it."

Anthonieta Kalunta: That was Basketmouth, apologising on Channels Television.

Comedians have had to apologise for what some believe is crossing the line to normalising sexual violence.

As part of a campaign video from "HerStoryOurStory", fourteen Nigerian comedians made a commitment to stop making rape jokes.



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Voice 1: “Telling a rape joke, doesn’t mean I condone sexual violence. These excuses are no longer acceptable.”

“One out of every three women in your audience is negatively affected.”

“We have to stop turning survivors of sexual and gender-based violence into collateral damage.”

Voice 2: “Because rape is not a joke.”

Anthonieta Kalunta: This video featured comedians such as Ali Baba, Broda Shaggi, Lasisi Elenu and Mr. Macaroni.

I asked some young Nigerians to share their thoughts on this commitment.

Vox 1: “If they act comedy with that kind of thing – the person that such a thing happened to her, how is that person going to feel?”

Vox 2: “If a lady has been raped, it’s hard for the person and the way the society will be looking at her and all that stuff. I don’t think we need to make jokes about it.”

Anthonieta Kalunta: Throughout history, very clever writers have used comedy to help society open up about topics that are difficult to discuss. And, some modern day comedians have continued in that tradition.

But unfortunately some comedians see comedy as just a way to get people to laugh.

But maybe the young up and coming generation of comedians can change this. Yes, they should get the audience laughing, but it would be great if after we laugh, we are also left with something to think about.



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I'm Anthonieta Kalunta, reporting from Abuja Nigeria for Newsreel World.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks, Anthonieta.

King by Jay Rox featuring Ern Chawama

ALANNA LESLIE: That's *King* from Zambian artists Jay Rox and Ern Chawama.

The video for *King* sees Jay Rox sitting on a throne wearing a crown with a goat's skull placed in front of him.

Some people on social media have claimed that the video features symbols from the Illuminati, a shadow organisation said to be controlling world affairs; an idea that is a centuries-old conspiracy theory.

Jay Rox has denied these accusations as complete nonsense. But, the online debate continues.

ALANNA LESLIE: That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!