

Happy New Year message from the First Minister

On Hogmanay the First Minister Humza Yousaf has issued his New Year message to everyone in Scotland.

First Minister Humza Yousaf said: “New Year is always a time to look forward.

“A time for hope, for optimism, for excitement.

“But it’s also a time to look back at the year we leave behind.

“And, as I reflect on 2023, I think of the challenges we faced.

“But also of the joys we experienced – from sporting highs like Scotland’s successful hosting of the world’s biggest cycling event, and, of course, our men’s football team qualifying for back-to-back European Championships, to the return of the first full-scale Edinburgh Festival since the pandemic, and the progress we continue to make towards net zero.

“We have much to be proud of.

“But I also know that too many families right across Scotland enter the new year with worries and fears – particularly those with loved ones caught up in conflicts across the world.

“I know those worries and fears all too well.

“And I hope that 2024 sees an end to the unimaginable suffering experienced by the peoples of Gaza and of Ukraine, but also of Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and all those who endure the horrors of war across the globe.

“We should remember that the world is becoming smaller and therefore the connections that bind us become stronger.

“We must treat those that come to our shores with kindness, with respect, and dignity.

“And, at this time of year more than any other, we should all be looking out for one another.

“As we celebrate together in 2024, I will continue to work tirelessly to create new opportunities and economic growth, to deliver a sustainable future for our children and our planet, and to ensure a fairer, wealthier and greener Scotland for everyone.

“I hope that we can all look forward to more joy in the year ahead.

“I wish you and your loved ones much health and happiness in 2024.

“Happy Hogmanay.

“Happy New Year.

“Bliadhna Mhath Ùr.”



First Minister Humza Yousaf on the steps of Bute House. PHOTO ©2023 The Edinburgh Reporter