

Scotland in global land reform context: An overview of key themes

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*Scotland in global land reform context:
progressing community rights in a
context of concentrated ownership*

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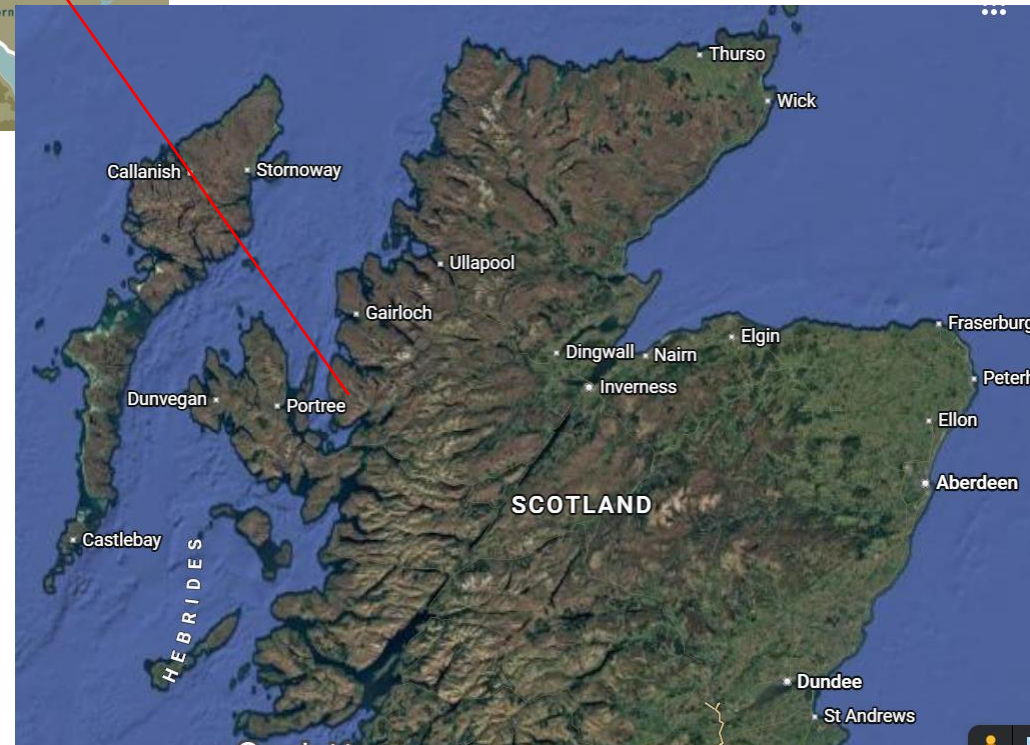


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421 landowners own 50% of Scotland's privately-owned rural land.

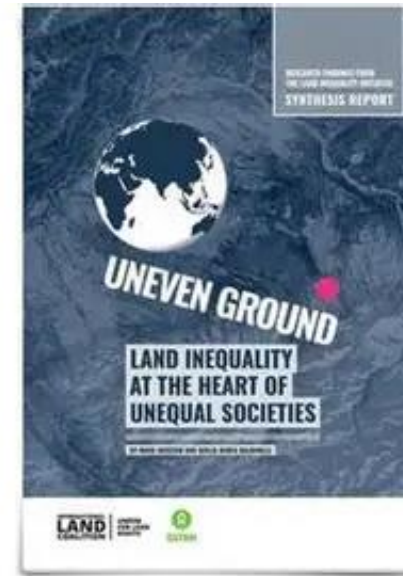
Inequality is worsening: 50% of land holdings over 500ha sold between 2020 and 2023 were acquired by those already owning land.



Uneven Ground (ILC and Oxfam, 2020)

Land inequality worsening in most countries of the world, directly threatening the livelihoods of ~2.5bn people. Drivers include:

- industrialisation of agriculture and corporate capture of land
- financialisation of land investments
- weak regulatory mechanisms and institutions.



The Return of Land Grabbing (Journal of Peasant Studies, Vol 52) (2025)

“demonstrate a relentless push towards land grabbing ... at multiple scales and through diverse mechanisms ... map[ping] a path towards commodification, concentration, and dispossession”.

Human Rights – a catalyst or obstacle for Scottish land reform?



EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON **HUMAN RIGHTS**
CONVENTION EUROPÉENNE
DES **DROITS DE L'HOMME**

1950 - 2025 **75**



**International Covenant on
Economic Social and Cultural Rights**

References and sources of inspiration:

- Who Owns Scotland (Andy Wightman): <https://whoownsscotland.org.uk/> +
- Scottish Land Commission (2019) Investigation into the Issues Associated with Large scale & Concentrated Landownership in Scotland
- International Land Coalition and Oxfam (2020) Uneven Ground: Land Inequalities at the Heart of Unequal Societies (Research Findings from the Land Inequality Initiative) <https://www.landcoalition.org/en/uneven-ground/>
- Serrano A. et al. (2025): The Return of Land Grabbing, Journal of Peasant Studies, 52, 1393-1408
- Doyle C. (2023): Rethinking Communities, Land and Governance: Land Reform in Scotland and the Community Ownership Model, Planning Theory and Practice, 24:3, 429-441
- Scottish Human Rights Commission (2024) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Highlands and Islands
- Community Land Scotland <https://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/>