

SNP Leadership Candidates
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

1st March 2023

Dear Kate Forbes MSP, Ash Regan MSP and Humza Yousaf MSP

As Members of Children's Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament, we are writing to SNP leadership candidates to ask you to reassure us of your ongoing commitment to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill* and to making sure it's brought back to the Scottish Parliament as a matter of great importance and as urgently as possible.

Earlier this month, we travelled to Geneva to give evidence to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about what matters to children and young people across Scotland. As you will see from our [report](#), one of the top issues we raised was children and young people's frustration that the UNCRC Incorporation Bill is still not law despite having been passed almost two years ago with the support of all the political parties in the Scottish Parliament. This long delay has come at a time when the need for rights to be protected in law has been more important than ever, with COVID-19, the cost-of-living crisis and the climate emergency.

Almost every day, we hear from children and young people who are worried about their rights – from their right to education, to health, to their right to be free from discrimination and to have a say in decisions that affect them. Every day of delay is another day when children and young people don't have these rights protected. We ask that you read our [report and recommendations](#) to understand children and young people's specific calls in these areas.

We know that there are technical issues about the Bill that need to be fixed, but this long delay makes it feel like children's rights are not being taken seriously. There has been very little information for us about what is happening and what the timeline for next steps is. In taking this long to protect our rights in law, many young people who campaigned for incorporation their entire childhood are now no longer children.

As we approach the two-year anniversary of the Bill passing on 16th March 2023, we are asking you to make your continued support for the Bill clear and to send a message to all children and young people in Scotland that you will give this Bill the priority it needs.

We look forward to your support in this important step towards Scotland becoming a world leader in protecting children and young people's rights.

With thanks and best wishes

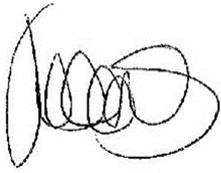
Omima MCP

Arden MCP

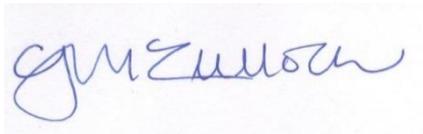
Beau Johnston MSYP

Daisy Stewart Henderson MSYP

Supporters:



Juliet Harris
Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)



Cathy McCulloch
Co-director, Children's Parliament



Sophie Reid MSYP
Chair, Scottish Youth Parliament



Bruce Adamson,
Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland



SallyAnn Kelly OBE,
Chief Executive, Aberlour



Paul Carberry
National Director for Scotland, Action for Children



Fiona Aitken
Director of Scotland, Adoption UK - Scotland



Alison Douglas
CEO, Alcohol Focus Scotland



Anna Warren
Chair, Amnesty International UK Children's Human Rights Network



Martin Crewe
Director, Barnardo's Scotland



Jean Gordon
Head of Operations, Befriend a Child

befriend a child



turn a frown upside down



Angus MacLean
Quality Officer, Befriending Networks



Befriending
Networks

Louise Morgan
Director for Scotland, Carers Trust Scotland



Sam Smith
CEO, C-Change



Jennifer Sherlock
Children's Advocacy Worker & Team leader, CEA



John Dickie
Director, Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland



Mary Glasgow
CEO, Children 1st



Fiona Dyer
Director, Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ)



Helen Forrest

Helen Forrest
Chief Executive, Children's Health Scotland



Dr Judith Turbyne

Dr Judith Turbyne
Chief, Executive, Children in Scotland



Alex Collop
Interim CEO & Head of Operations, Circle



Angela Friel
COJAC Centre Manager, COJAC



Kara Whelan
Project Manager, Craigmillar Books for Babies
Craigmillar Literacy Trust



Lianne Minasian and Leo Ratledge
Co-Directors, Child Rights International Network (CRIN)



Katy Nisbet
Legal Policy Manager, Clan Childlaw



Susan Walls
Scotland Manager, Contact



Viv Dickenson
CEO, CrossReach



Chloe Goodall
Executive Director, Curiosity Collective



Andrew Stevenson
CEO, The Destiny Project SCIO



Theresa Casey
Partnerships Officer, East Lothian Play Association



Professor Nancy Loucks OBE
Chief Executive, Families Outside



Laura Falconer
Chief Executive, Forces Children Scotland



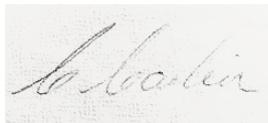
Jacqueline Cassidy
Director of Practice and Scotland, The Fostering Network



Girlguiding Scotland



Diane Delaney and Patricia Anderson
Co-spokespeople, Give Them Time Campaign



Christine Carlin
Director Scotland, Home-Start UK



Leanne McNeill,
Autism Lead, HOPE for Autism



Mhairi Snowden
Director, Human Rights Consortium Scotland



Fraser Sutherland
Chief Executive, Humanist Society Scotland



Martin Dorchester
CEO, includem



Sandra Brown
Chief Officer, Inspiring Young Voices



Emma Hutton
CEO, JustRight Scotland



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shona Rattray'.

Shona Rattray
Executive Producer, Licketyspit Theatre



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mhairi Crawford'.

Dr Mhairi Crawford
Chief Executive, LGBT Youth Scotland



Avril Foakes
Principal Teacher
On behalf of staff and pupils at Maidens Primary & Early Years Centre



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. MacDonald'.

Dr Lindsey MacDonald
Chief Executive, Magic Breakfast



Neil McIntosh
Assistant Director, NSPCC Scotland.



Satwat Rehman
CEO, One Parent Families Scotland



Gordon Main
Project Lead, Our Hearings, Our Voice

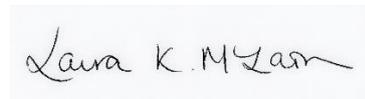


ar n-èisteachdan, ar guth
our hearings, our voice

Pauline Cavanagh
Operations Manager, Partners in Advocacy

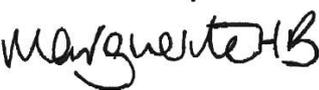


Glenn Liddall
Chief Executive, People Know How



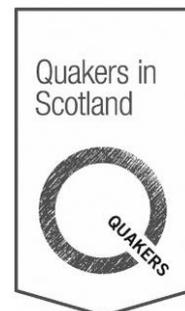
Laura McLaren
Project Manager, Pilton Youth and Children's Project




Marguerite Hunter Blair
Chief Executive, Play Scotland




Michael Hutchinson,
Clerk, Quakers in Scotland



Claire Telfer
Head of Scotland, Save the Children (Scotland)



Alison Bavidge
National Director, Scottish Association of Social Work



Sarah Forster
Director, Scottish Child Law Centre

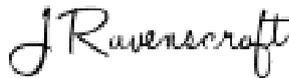


Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD)



Irene Audain MBE
Chief Executive, Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN)




Professor John Ravenscroft
Chair of Childhood Visual Impairment
Director, Scottish Sensory Centre



Dr Marsha Scott
CEO, Scottish Women's Aid



Paul Traynor
Head of External Affairs, Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance



Graeme Luke
Chief Executive Officer, Scouts Scotland





Ian Maxwell
National Manager, Shared Parenting Scotland



Nicoletta Primo
Policy and Campaigns Lead, Sight Scotland



Arianna Patterson
CEO, The Speech Language Communication Company



Jo Derrick
CEO, Staf



Rhona Matheson,
Chief Executive, Starcatchers



Sue Palmer
Chair, Upstart Scotland



Louise Hunter
CEO, Who Cares? Scotland



EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE



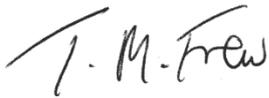
Gwen Galbraith
CEO, With Kids



Kirsten Urquhart
Chief Executive, Young Scot



Susan Hunter
Chief Officer, YouthBorders



Tim Frew
Chief Executive, YouthLink Scotland

