



# UN Convention against Torture

## Review of the UK - April 2019

### Call for Members' Views

#### Introduction

In April 2019, the UK will be reviewed by the [UN Committee against Torture](#). This review will assess how well the UK Government, and the devolved nations, are implementing the [UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#). In particular, the review will identify gaps in implementation which may potentially breach the Convention and make recommendations to the UK to address these.

#### What issues will the UN Committee be looking at?

The review of the UK will focus on a [List of Issues](#) that the Committee published in 2016. The UK Government has produced an [initial response](#) to these.

The issues include:

1. **Prisons, policing and intelligence services:** issues relevant to children and young people may include inappropriate placement in police detention, conditions and treatment in detention settings (including use of restraint), mental health, deaths in custody, strip searching, using children and young people as covert human intelligence sources, inadequacy of data recording.
2. **Health and social care:** issues relevant to children and young people may include mental health, including in custody settings.
3. **Violence and abuse against women, minorities and children:** issues relevant to children and young people may include FGM, gender-based bullying, sexual harassment, forced marriage, domestic abuse and equal protection from assault.
4. **Asylum and migration:** issues relevant to children and young people may include supporting victims of child trafficking, age assessment and training of officials.
5. **Legislative, administrative and judicial procedures:** issues relevant to children and young people include the low age of criminal responsibility, the debate around equal protection from assault, justiciability of international human rights treaties and redress.

#### Together's response

The UN Committee welcomes shadow reports from NGOs and civil society organisations. These shadow reports play an important role in highlighting gaps in implementing the Convention and help inform the Committee's review and final recommendations.

Together will be submitting a shadow report focusing on children and young people's right to be free from torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment under the Convention (also a right under Article 37 of the UN Convention on the Right of the Child). This report will focus on the Scottish context and will draw on the views of, and evidence submitted by, our member organisations across Scotland.

The UN Committee has emphasised that shadow reports are most useful and impactful when they are:

- Short
- Focused
- Prioritised
- Not too generic
- Coordinated among many actors

Together's report will therefore not include *all* potential issues for children and young people under the Convention but highlight *key* areas that are of concern to our members and the progress that we wish to see in Scotland. With this in mind, we invite our members to get in touch and let us know their main concerns, drawing upon their organisation's particular expertise and knowledge.

### Share your views!

In order to highlight your organisation's key concerns, please answer the following questions:

1. Please provide a summary of up to three priority concerns relating to the [List of Issues](#) (summarised above), stating briefly what the problems are and the impact that these have on the children and young people you work with.
2. Are there specific actions that the Scottish Government or UK Government could or should take that would help to address these priority concerns?
3. If known, please provide links or titles of particular policy documents or evidence around your concerns.

Please get in touch by email [maria@togetherscotland.org.uk](mailto:maria@togetherscotland.org.uk) by **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**.

Once we have received input from our members, we will circulate a draft report to contributors for comments. The final report will be submitted in Together's name and members may sign up as supporters if they wish.

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2019**

For further information, please contact Maria Doyle, Legal Research Officer

**Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)**

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