Joint Statement on UK Rights Removal Bill

Our human rights are about the values we hold dear and the way we treat one another – they are about dignity, fairness, equality, tolerance, and respect. They are the foundations that help us live together freely and fairly - a safety net to protect us all. We are therefore alarmed that the UK Government has introduced a Bill to Parliament which, if enacted, will repeal the Human Rights Act and will significantly diminish protection for human rights in law.

Our experience of working with individuals and communities across Scotland is that the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) is an essential protection for our human rights. Indeed, many of our organisations submitted evidence to the Independent Review of the Human Rights Act detailing the ways in which the HRA is working well. We also collectively gave many hours of our time to respond to the UK Government's consultation on proposals for this Bill of Rights. However, both the Panel's recommendations and the consultation responses have been disregarded by the UK Government in the development of this Bill.

We are very concerned that there are many elements to this Bill that will significantly reduce human rights protection. These include, for example, restricting / narrowing our relationship with the European Court of Human Rights, lowering standards of protection, and making it harder for the court to protect us from serious and irreparable harm.

The rights removal bill will undermine all of our human rights and significantly impact the realisation of rights for individuals whose human rights are currently most at risk. The UK Government's proposals for reform are out of step with political and public opinion in Scotland. There is overwhelming support across Scotland to go forwards and not backwards on human rights, for a strong human rights legal framework and not one that is watered down.

We therefore strongly urge the UK Government to reconsider this Bill and instead, consider what can be done to better protect human rights for all in Scotland, and across the UK.

This statement is supported by the following 154 organisations:

A24 Scotland







Ability Borders SCIO



About Dementia



Adoption UK





Advocacy Western Isles

Africa & Caribbean Women's Association





African & Caribbean Elders In Scotland

Age Scotland





Alcohol Focus Scotland

Alliance





Alzheimer Scotland

Amnesty International UK

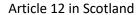








Argyll & Bute Women's Aid







Art 27

Autism Rights Group Highland





Befriend a Child

BEMIS – Empowering Scotland's Ethnic & Cultural Minority Communities





Bridges Programmes

British Institute for Human Rights



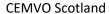


CaTE Consultancy Ltd





C-Change Scotland







Central Scotland Regional Equality Council **Child Rights International Network**





Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Children 1st





Children in Scotland

Children Poverty Action Group Scotland





Children's Health Scotland



Children's Parliament

Church of Scotland





Circle







Clackmannanshire Women's Aid

Clan Childlaw





Close the Gap

Coalition of Carers in Scotland





Community Infosource

Contact Scotland





Cornerstone Community Care

Corra Foundation





Craigmillar Literacy Trust

Deaf Accessibility & Equality Form





Disability Equality Scotland

Disabled Persons Housing Service Borders





Dundee Women's Aid

Dyslexia Scotland





Each Other

East and Southeast Asian Scotland





East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid

Edinburgh Development Group





Edinburgh Women's Aid

Empower Women for Change





Enable Scotland

Engender





Environmental Rights Centre For Scotland

Equality Network





Faith in Older People

Families Outside





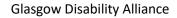
Feniks

Forces Children Scotland





Glasgow Council For the Voluntary Sector

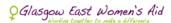






Glasgow East Women's Aid

Glasgow Women's Aid





Global Justice Now

Govan Community Project





Grampian Regional Equality Council Grampian Women's Aid





Hansel

Helm









Humanist Society Scotland







Include Me







Inclusion Scotland

Jacqui Dunbar





Jimmy Reid Foundation

Just Right Scotland









Legal Services Agency



LGBT Youth Scotland



Licketyspit



Lochaber Women's Aid



Making Rights Real



Maryhill Integration Network



Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)



Monklands Women's Aid







One Parent Families Scotland

Parenting Across Scotland





Partners In Advocacy

Perthshire Women's Aid





Pilton Youth and Children's Project

PKAVS





Play Scotland

Play Wise Therapy





Poverty And Inequality Commission

Quakers





Refugee Survival Trust

Safari





Safe in Scotland

Salvesen Mindroom Centre





SCIAF

Scotland's Campaign Against Irresponsible Drivers





Scottish Association of Social Work

Scottish Borders
Social Enterprise Chamber CIC





Scottish Care

Scottish Commission for People With Learning Disabilities





Scottish Community Development Centre

Scottish Episcopal Church





Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance Scottish Recovery Consortium





Scottish Refugee Council

Scottish Sensory Centre





Scottish Trans Alliance

Scottish Women's Aid





Scottish Women's Convention

Scottish Women's Rights Centre





Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance

Shared Lives Plus





Shelter Scotland

Shetland Women's Aid





Sight Scotland







Starcatchers

Stirling & District Women's Aid









Talking Mats

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection





The Poverty Alliance

Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)





tsi Moray

United Free Church Of Scotland





Upstart Scotland

Visibility Scotland





Voice Ability

Welfare Scotland









Women for Independence

Women's Aid South Lanarkshire East Renfrewshire





Women Support Project

