

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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

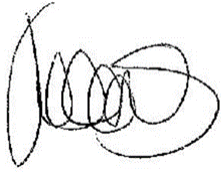
Omima MCP

Arden MCP

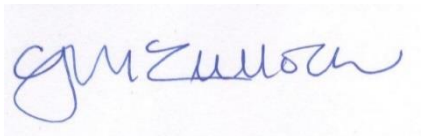
Beau Johnston MSYP

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 1<sup>st</sup>



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



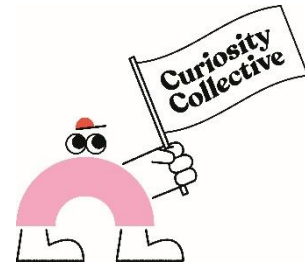
Susan Walls  
Scotland Manager, Contact



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



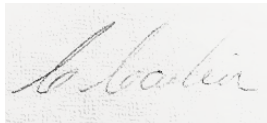
Jacqueline Cassidy  
Director of Practice and Scotland, The Fostering Network



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



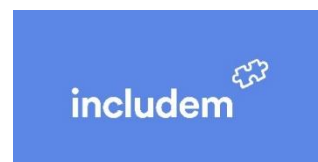
Mhairi Snowden  
Director, Human Rights Consortium Scotland



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



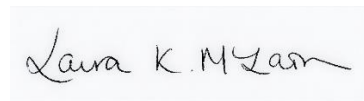
ar n-èisteachdan, ar guth  
our hearings, our voice



Pauline Cavanagh  
Operations Manager, Partners in Advocacy

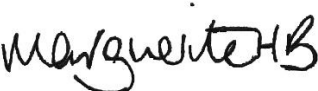


Glenn Liddall  
Chief Executive, People Know How

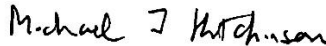


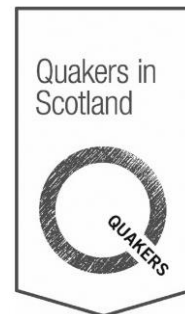
Laura McLaren  
Project Manager, Pilton Youth and Children's Project



  
Marguerite Hunter Blair  
Chief Executive, Play Scotland



  
Michael Hutchinson,  
Clerk, Quakers in Scotland



Lorraine Glass  
Interim Director, respectme



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



Alison Bavidge  
National Director, Scottish Association of Social Work



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Forster', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

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)



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ravenscroft', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.  
Professor John Ravenscroft  
Chair of Childhood Visual Impairment  
Director, Scottish Sensory Centre



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marsha Scott', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.


Dr Marsha Scott  
CEO, Scottish Women's Aid



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Traynor', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

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



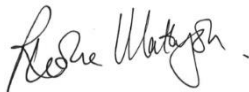
Nicoletta Primo  
Policy and Campaigns Lead, Sight Scotland



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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Galbraith'.

Gwen Galbraith  
CEO, With Kids



Kirsten Urquhart  
Chief Executive, Young Scot



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Hunter'.

Susan Hunter  
Chief Officer, YouthBorders



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. M. Frew'.

Tim Frew  
Chief Executive, YouthLink Scotland

