

9th March 2023

To Omima, Arden, Beau & Daisy

Children's Parliament

Scottish Youth Parliament

Many thanks for your letter requesting clarification on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

This bill is a vital piece of legislation that protected children and ensured their same rights as all other citizens in society. Passing this world leading bill unanimously in the Scottish Parliament was a significant leap in pushing forward social justice. That the UK government blocked the UN Rights of the Child Scotland bill after the unequivocal support in the Scottish parliament was an affront to our democracy and our children.

I would like to re-assure you that, I pledge my unequivocal support in advancing people's rights if I become First Minister. And that will always include children's rights. I intend to bring forward the Scottish Government's Human Rights Bill, incorporating UN Human Rights Treaties on economic, social and cultural rights, discrimination against women, racial discrimination and on the rights of people with disabilities into Scots Law as far as possible within devolved competencies, and confirming that an independent Scotland would incorporate them in full.

I stand by the action we intended to take with the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. This must be part of our framework for Scotland as an international leader in human rights. If First Minister I would move this legislation forward making necessary changes, to bring it into the competence of the Scottish parliament.

I am committed to social justice and that must include our children. I am also committed to a wellbeing Scotland – as in our 2021 manifesto – where our society values children and helps them thrive.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Scotland) Bill is part of that commitment. And, if elected as First Minister, I would look forward to discussing these issues with you, and how we bring this into our Scots Law.

With best wishes

Humza Yousaf

