



Iona Colvin  
Interim Director of Children and Families  
Scottish Government  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Ms Colvin

As members of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights), we're writing to welcome you to your role as Interim Director, Children and Families, and offer our support in ensuring a rights-based approach to the current crisis.

We recognise that Scottish Government has had to reprioritise its work in order to protect lives and navigate the current crisis. At the same time, challenges to ensuring children and young people's rights are respected and protected have become more acute, particularly for children living in poverty, disabled children, young carers, care experienced children and children at risk of harm. It is more important than ever that children's human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled in legislation, policy and practice.

In the coming weeks and months, our priority must be protecting the health and safety of every family across Scotland. As Together members, we will all play our role in supporting the children and families we work with to cope with the current crisis. As we do this, we would like to offer our support and expertise to Scottish Government to secure appropriate rights-based responses to the challenges faced by the children we work with. We have enclosed a short briefing for your information, outlining some of the key children's rights issues identified by Together members in relation to the government's response to COVID-19.

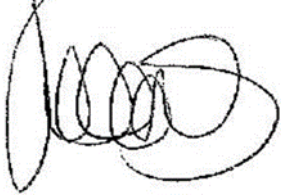
In uncertain times like these, the importance of legal protections for children and young people's human rights is more evident than ever. As such, we would like to reiterate the importance of securing the full and direct incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots law - insofar as the powers of the Scottish Parliament allow - to ensure that children's human rights are protected and respected. We are collectively committed to working constructively with you to ensure that this is realised in the lifetime of this Parliament. Such a step will ensure that children and young people's rights are upheld in times of crisis, as well as being embedded more broadly into Scotland's culture.

*Registered Office:*

*Together – Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5EZ  
Charity Reg No. SC029403 Company No. SC199725*

Please let me know if you feel it would be useful to arrange a meeting to provide more background on any of our work.

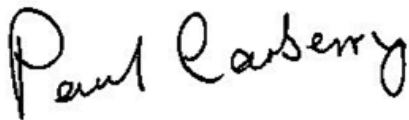
Yours sincerely



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



SallyAnn Kelly  
Chief Executive, Aberlour



Paul Carberry  
Director, Action for Children Scotland



Martin Crewe  
Director, Barnardo's Scotland



Mary Glasgow  
Chief Executive, Children 1<sup>st</sup>



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Helen Forrest

Helen Forrest  
Chief Executive, Children's Health Scotland



Cathy McCulloch

Cathy McCulloch,  
Co-Director, Children's Parliament



Jackie Brock

Jackie Brock  
Chief Executive, Children in Scotland



Mhairi Snowden

Mhairi Snowden  
Coordinator, Human Rights Consortium Scotland



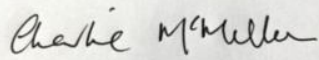
Andrew Sirel

Andrew Sirel, Just Right Scotland



Elizabeth Allen,  
Clerk, Quakers in Scotland

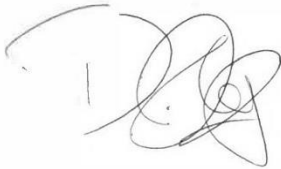




Charlie McMillian  
Chief Executive, Scottish Commission for Learning Disability



Ben McKendrick  
Chief Executive, Scottish Youth Parliament



Duncan Dunlop  
Chief Executive, Who Cares? Scotland



Tim Frew  
Chief Executive, YouthLink

