

Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



2nd September 2020

Dear Members of the Scottish Parliament

As members of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights), we warmly welcome the introduction of a Bill to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law. We believe this is a significant moment in realising our shared vision of ensuring all children and young people growing up in Scotland have their human rights respected, protected and fulfilled.

Children, young people, their families and wider civil society have been working towards UNCRC incorporation for very many years. The journey began back in 1991 when the UK first ratified the UNCRC, placing a duty on Scotland to give effect to the UNCRC under international law. Over the following 29 years, there have been many more important milestones, including the creation of our world-leading Children's Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament which have been leading calls for children's rights to be made binding in law. This campaign to secure children's rights in law has gathered widespread support across many sectors and professions including health, social work, education and the police. The introduction of the UNCRC Incorporation Bill to the Scottish Parliament will be one of the most significant steps forward on this journey so far.

We know from international experience that incorporation encourages a culture change in which children and young people are better valued and respected. In uncertain times like these, the importance of legal protections for children and young people's human rights is more evident than ever. Passing the Bill will be one of the most important things the Scottish Parliament can do to ensure children's rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled. It will provide a meaningful legacy to the Year of Young People 2018 and make sure that future generations benefit from the hard work and commitment of today's children and young people.

We look forward to your support in this important step towards Scotland becoming a world leader in protecting children and young people's rights. Please do get in touch if you have any questions about UNCRC incorporation or as the Bill progresses through the Scottish Parliament. In the meantime, we hope you will be keen to celebrate the introduction of the UNCRC Incorporation Bill with us!

With thanks and best wishes

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



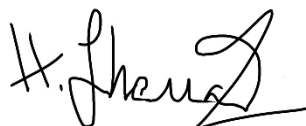
SallyAnn Kelly
Chief Executive, Aberlour



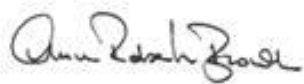
Paul Carberry,
Action for Children's Director for Scotland



Alison Douglas
Chief Executive, Alcohol Focus Scotland



Huw Sherrard FRSA
Chair of Action for Local Youth Voice Empowerment UK, ALYVE UK



Anne Robertson Brown
Executive Director, Angus Women's Aid





Beth Cadger
Policy, Research and Editorial, Article 12 in Scotland



David Ferguson
Assistant Director Policy and Influencing, Barnardo's Scotland



Jean Gordon

Jean Gordon
Head of Operations, Befriend A Child

befriend a child



turn a frown upside down

Angus Maclean
Quality Officer, Befriending Networks



Paul Traynor
Policy and External Affairs Manager, Carers Trust Scotland





Claire Burns,
(Acting) Director, Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection



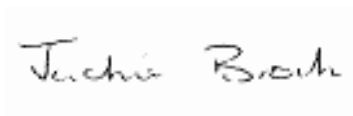
John Dickie
Director, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in Scotland



Mary Glasgow
CEO, Children 1st

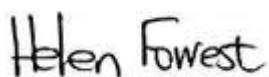


Fiona Dyer
Deputy Director, Children and Young People's Centre for Justice

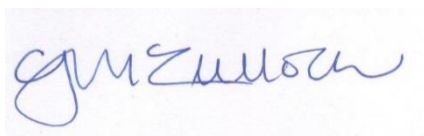


Jackie Brock
Chief Executive, Children in Scotland





Children's Health Scotland
Helen Forrest, Chief Executive



Cathy McCulloch
Co-Director, Children's Parliament



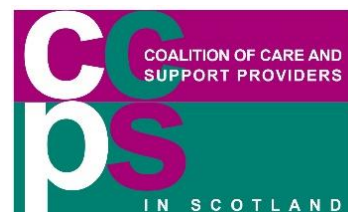
Neil Mathers
Chief Executive, Children's University Scotland

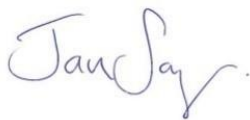


Alison Reid
Principal Solicitor, Clan Childlaw



Mark MacMillan
Chair, Committee on Care and Support for Children and Young People,
Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS)





Jan Savage
Director of Campaigns and Membership, ENABLE Scotland



Jane Brumpton
Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland



Cheryl Ward
Group Chief Executive, Family Fund



Nancy Loucks OBE
Chief Executive, Families Outside



Douglas Guest
Acting Director, Homestart Scotland



Fraser Sutherland
Chief Executive, Humanist Society Scotland



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Snowden".

Mhairi Snowden
Coordinator, Human Rights Consortium Scotland



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Dorchester".

Martin Dorchester
CEO, Includem



Jen Ang
Partner/Director, JustRight Scotland



A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Virginia Radcliffe".

Virginia Radcliffe
Artistic Director & CEO, Licketyspit





Matt Forde
National Head of Service
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children



Clare Simpson
Manager, Parenting Across Scotland



Marguerite Hunter Blair
CEO, Play Scotland



Elizabeth Allen
Clerk, Quakers in Scotland



Wendy Harrington
Director, respectme



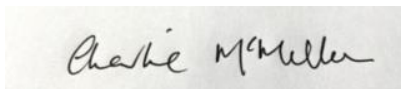


Colin Flinn
CEO, Royal Caledonian Education Trust



*Scotland's Armed Forces
Children's Charity*

Claire Telfer
Head of Scotland, Save the Children



Charlie McMillian
Chief Executive, Scottish Commission for Learning Disability



Shaben Begum
Director, Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

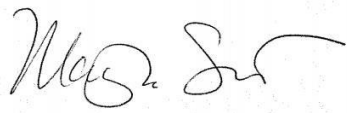


Jo Derrick
CEO, Staf



Professor John Ravenscroft
Head and Director, Scottish Sensory Centre





Dr Marsha Scott
Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Women's Aid



Dinah Aitken
Head of Outreach, Salvesen Mindroom Centre



Ian Maxwell
National Manager, Shared Parenting Scotland



Rhona Matheson
Chief Executive, Starcatchers



Jack Dudgeon MSYP
Chair, Scottish Youth Parliament

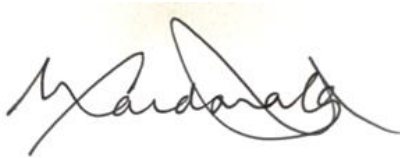




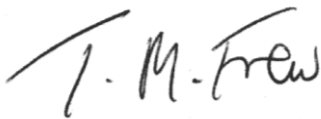
Lucinda Rivers
Head of Unicef UK in Scotland



Sue Palmer
Chair, Upstart Scotland



Claudia Macdonald
Interim Chief Executive



Tim Frew
Chief Executive, YouthLink

