



John Swinney MSP and Clare Haughey MSP
Deputy First Minister and Minister for Children and Young People
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

6th October 2021

Dear Deputy First Minister and Minister for Children and Young People

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

As members of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights), we note the recent Supreme Court ruling that aspects of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill are outwith the powers of the Scottish Parliament and require amendment. We urge Scottish Government to work at speed to address the Court's concerns and to take the necessary steps to allow the Scottish Parliament to reconsider the Bill.

It has never been more pressing to ensure children's rights are granted stronger protection. This was recognised by the cross-party support the Bill received as it progressed through the Scottish Parliament. MSPs are now expecting to reconsider the Bill so that they can keep the commitments they made to children when they unanimously passed the Bill earlier this year.

Children cannot wait any longer for their rights to be made law, nor for the culture change needed to make their rights real. We note the judgment does not reflect the policy intention behind the Bill, instead focusing on technical issues. As such, addressing these concerns is the most important thing Scottish Government can do to take forward our vision of all children in Scotland having their rights realised all of the time.

We recognise that much of the work needed to progress UNCRC implementation can - and must - continue whilst technical issues around the Bill are resolved. We will continue to support Scottish Government to ensure the Implementation Programme continues at pace.

Yours sincerely,

Juliet Harris

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



Fiona Aitken
Director, Adoption UK Scotland



Alison Douglas
Chief Executive Officer, Alcohol Focus Scotland



Dr. Jenny Wood
Co-founder & Co-director, A Place in Childhood



Michelle Erskine
Group Chief Executive Officer, The Aarskog Foundation



Beth Cadger
National Co-Coordinator, Article 12 in Scotland



Martin Crewe
Director, Barnardo's Scotland



Jean Gordon
Head of Operations, Befriend a Child





Angus Maclean
Quality Officer, Befriending Networks



Paul Traynor
Head of External Affairs (Scotland), Carers Trust



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



Jennifer Sherlock
Children's Advocacy Worker and Team Leader, CEA



John Dickie
Director of Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland



Mary Glasgow,
Chief Executive, Children 1st



Fiona Dyer
Director (interim), Children and Young People's Centre for Justice

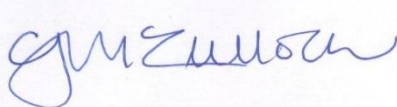




Judith Turbyne
Chief Executive, Children in Scotland



Helen Forrest
Chief Executive, Children's Health Scotland



Cathy McCulloch
Co-director, Children's Parliament



Carolyn Sawers
Acting Chief Executive, Corra Foundation



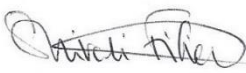
Neil Mathers
Chief Executive, Curiosity Collective



Mark Kennedy
Chief Executive, Circle



Jane Brumpton
Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland



Shivali Fifield
Chief Officer, Environmental Rights Centre Scotland



Profesor Nancy Loucks OBE
Chief Executive, Families Outside



Cheryl Ward
Chief Executive, Family Fund



Allie Cherry-Byrnes
Chief Executive Officer, Fast Forward



Carolyn Fox McKay
Head of Operations, Girlguiding Scotland



Ian Bruce
Chief Executive Officer, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector



Professor Ian Welsh OBE
Chief Executive, The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland



Christine Carlin
Director, Scotland Home-Start UK





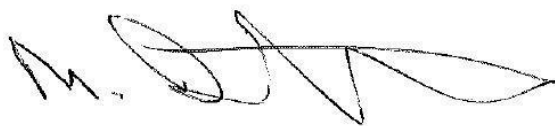
Mhairi Snowden
Coordinator, Human Rights Consortium Scotland



Fraser Sutherland
Chief Executive, Humanist Society Scotland



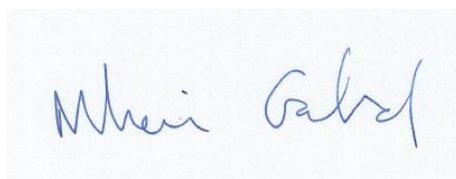
Belinda McElhinney
Chief Executive, Imagine



Martin Dorchester
Chief Executive, Includem



Celia Tennant
Chief Executive for Inclusion, Inspiring Scotland



Mhairi Crawford
Chief Executive, LGBT Youth Scotland



Virginia Radcliffe
Artistic Director and CEO, Lickety Spit



Margaret Wilson
Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland



Antony Kildare
Chief Executive Officer, Magic Breakfast



Pete Ritchie,
Executive, Nourish



Clare Simpson
Manager, Parenting Across Scotland



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



Pilton Youth & Children's Project

Marguerite Hunter Blair
Chief Executive, Play Scotland



Elizabeth Allen
Clerk of General meeting for Scotland, Quakers



Elizabeth Lumsden
Community Safety Manager, RoSPA Scotland



Dinah Aitkin
Head of Outreach, Salvesen Mindroom Centre



Claire Telfer
Head of Scotland, Save the Children



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graeme McAlister".

Graeme McAlister
Chief Executive, Scottish Childminding Association



Charlie McMillan,
Chief Executive



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhona Willder".

Rhona Willder,
Development Manager, Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ravenscroft".

Professor John Ravenscroft
Director, Scottish Sensory Centre



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marsha Scott".

Marsha Scott
Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Women's Aid

Josh Kennedy
MSYP, Chair, Scottish Youth Parliament



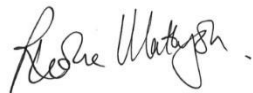
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Maxwell".

Ian Maxwell
National Manager, Shared Parenting Scotland





Jo Derrick
Chief Executive Officer, Staf



Rhona Matheson
Chief Executive, Starcatcher



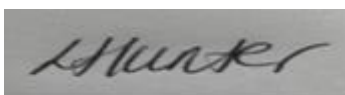
Graeme Luke
Interim Chief Executive, Scouts Scotland



Andy Elvin
Chief Executive Officer, TACT Fostering



Sue Palmer
Chair, Upstart Scotland



Louise Hunter
Chief Executive, Who Cares? Scotland



EQUALITY | RESPECT | LOVE



Richard Orr
Development & Communications Manager, Winning Scotland



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Gwen Galbraith
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Celine Sinclair
Chief Executive Officer, the Yard



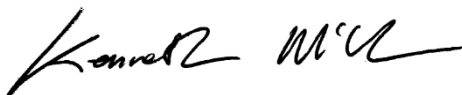
Kerry Reilly
Chief Executive, YMCA Scotland



Susan Hunter
Chief Officer, Youth Borders



Tim Frew
Chief Executive, YouthLink Scotland



Kenneth McGlashan
Chief Executive Officer, Youth Theatre Arts Scotland

