



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Dr Hywel Francis MP, Chair

Fiona Jones,
Chair,
Together – Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights,
Rosebery House,
9 Haymarket Terrace,
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

Wednesday 25 February 2015

Dear Fiona,

Inquiry into the UK’s compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Thank you for your letter of 13 February. The Committee considered its contents at its meeting this morning.

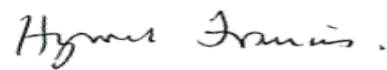
We would very much appreciate your sending us a written submission setting out your particular concerns. As you know, as a Committee we are keen to receive material at all times that will help with our work, or to meet informally with individuals and organisations where that is possible. We have already received useful written submissions from some organisations from whom we have not taken oral evidence. We will be considering a draft Report on this subject in mid-March so if you are able to let us have something by then it would prove most useful.

The Committee is aware of the important extra dimension that devolution has brought to the protection and promotion of children’s rights across the UK. Indeed, I referred to just this recently, during the recent evidence session on 11 February.

We were able to speak to some NGOs and children’s rights bodies when we visited Northern Ireland this time last year. We had hoped to visit Wales and Scotland as well, as part of a proposed inquiry into devolution and human rights, but the pressing nature of other work to which we were already committed –and in particular our need to scrutinise new legislation being introduced by the Government – meant that we were unable to realise this ambition.

Unfortunately, given how few meetings we have left before the end of the Parliament and the amount of business we still have to transact, we are unable to hear from you in oral evidence. That said, I emphasise again how useful it would be for us to receive your written evidence, which I can assure you, will be recognised in our Report.

As you may know, most members of the current Committee will not be on the new Committee that will be established after the General Election. However, I expect that the new Chair and Committee will be interested in hearing your views at an appropriately early stage in the new Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hywel Francis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Dr Hywel Francis MP
Chair