



Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Skills
Natalie Don MSP, Minister for Children and Young People and Keeping the Promise
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Dear Ms Gilruth and Ms Don,

Together members are writing to welcome you to your roles – Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Skills and Natalie Don MSP, Minister for Children and Young People and Keeping the Promise. We would like to offer our ongoing support towards achieving Scottish Government's mission of delivering a revolution in children's human rights.

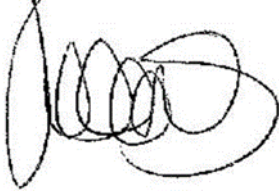
This week, we will travel to Geneva for the UK's review by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This will be an opportunity for the UN Committee to assess Scotland's progress since its last review in 2016 as well as new and emerging issues. Earlier this year, we gave evidence before the UN Committee on key issues that matter for children and young people across Scotland. One of the top issues was children and young people's frustration that the *UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill* is still not law despite having been passed unanimously by MSPs over two years ago. You can read the full report from [children and young people here](#) and from Together [here](#).

We recognise that this is a time of change for Scottish Government. At the same time, challenges to ensuring children and young people's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled have become even more acute – particularly for children whose rights are already most at risk. It is more important than ever that children's human rights is put into law as soon as possible. We were pleased to receive [reassurance from the First Minister](#) that he remains committed to the UNCRC Incorporation Bill and to working with children and young people on next steps.

We know that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child commends Scotland's commitment to incorporation and is likely to ask Scottish Government officials for an update on progress and expected timelines next week. The UN Committee will publish its full recommendations in early June covering a broad range of issues related to UNCRC incorporation and implementation. We are committed to working constructively with you to ensure these recommendations are fully implemented and that structures are put in place to ensure children and young people can hold Scottish Government and public authorities to account on progress.

Together's UNCRC Implementation Strategy Group, made up of around 44 organisations, would like to invite you to meet with them to discuss Scottish Government plans to take forward the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill and the UN Committee's forthcoming recommendations. Please could you let us know your availability for such a meeting.

Yours sincerely



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



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Children**



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1. Adoption UK
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3. Carers Trust Scotland
4. CELCIS
5. Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland
6. Children 1st
7. Children and Young People's Centre for Justice
8. Children in Scotland
9. Children's Health Scotland
10. Children's Parliament
11. Circle
12. Clan Childlaw
13. Close the Gap
14. COJAC Centre
15. Early Years Scotland
16. Families Outside
17. Forces Children Scotland
18. Girlguiding Scotland
19. Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
20. Home Start
21. Human Rights Consortium Scotland
22. Humanist Society Scotland
23. Imaginate
24. Inspiring Young Voices
25. JustRight Scotland
26. Magic Breakfast
27. One Parent Families in Scotland
28. Partners in Advocacy
29. Play Scotland
30. Salvesen Mindroom Centre
31. Save the Children
32. Scottish Child Law Centre
33. Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
34. Scottish Women's Aid
35. Shared Parenting Scotland
36. Sight Scotland
37. Sistema Scotland
38. Staf
39. Starcatchers
40. The Destiny Project SCIO
41. The Speech Language Communication Company
42. Upstart Scotland
43. Who Cares? Scotland
44. With Kids