

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
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Dear Convener,

PROGRESSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND: A REPORT 2021-2024

I am writing to bring your Committee's attention to the Scottish Government's recent publication, '[Progressing the Human Rights of Children in Scotland: A Report 2021-2024](#)'. This report was published on 20 November 2024 to coincide with World Children's Day – an annual day of action to mark the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This report provides an update on the delivery of commitments outlined in the Scottish Government's Action Plan '[Progressing the human rights of children in Scotland: Action Plan 2021 to 2024](#)', and details the progress we have made since 2021.

As your Committee will be aware, during this reporting period, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 (the UNCRC Act) fully commenced. This marks a significant milestone in advancing children's rights in Scotland, and I am particularly proud of this achievement. In addition, the report demonstrates the breadth of work that has been co-ordinated by the Scottish Government to: provide leadership for children's rights; embed children's rights in public services, empower children and young people to claim their rights and strengthen support for rights resolution.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building on this strong foundation. Sections 14 to 16 of the UNCRC Act require Scottish Ministers to make a Children's Rights Scheme (the Scheme) which sets out the arrangements that the Scottish Ministers have made, or propose to make, to comply with their obligations under the section 6 compatibility duty in the UNCRC Act and to secure better or further effect of the rights of children.

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Currently, we are engaging with key stakeholders, including children and young people, to shape the Scheme. I look forward to sharing this with Parliament early next year, and progress on the actions set out in the Scheme will be reported on an annual basis.

These new arrangements under the UNCRC Act have replaced previous reporting requirements, which is why our report published on 20 November 2024 was not formally laid in Parliament, and why I am writing to you to ensure your Committee is aware of its publication.

I am keen to continue working closely with your Committee to support the implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland. Together, we can help make sure that all children - particularly those most at risk - benefit from enhanced protection of their rights and are supported to realise their full potential.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Don-Innes MSP
Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

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