



# Young People's Rights Review

## Summary of Recommendations<sup>1</sup>

### Adam Paton MSYP - Unfair Access to Shops

- The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's [recommendation from their 2016 review of the UK in paragraph 23](#): 'that the Committee recalls its previous recommendation that the State party take urgent measures to address the "intolerance of childhood" and general negative public attitude towards children, especially adolescents, within society, including in the media.'
- I believe that the Children and Young People's Rights Action Plan must contain a specific provision to prohibit disproportionate discrimination of young people from entering shops.

### Angus MacDonald MSYP - Mental Health

- *The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that high quality, robust training on how to identify and support young people experiencing mental health difficulties should be a mandatory component of teacher training.*  
(Committee Motion by the Health and Wellbeing Committee passed on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 with 87% agreement).
- *NHS Education for Scotland, in partnership with organisations such as the Mental Welfare Commission, should work with young people to develop a booklet and/or online resource about young people's rights when accessing mental health support. On first accessing mental health support, all young people should be presented with this resource in an accessible form.*  
(Policy Recommendation from SYP's research report, [Our Generation's Epidemic](#), 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, extended by Conveners Group on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017).
- I would strongly urge the Government to not only continue to support work with SYP in creating resources to aid the transition between CAMHS and adult services, in line with [Action Point 21 in the Mental Health Strategy](#); but also to take specific action to address the concerns of those accessing services around the age of transition.
- I would also back [SAMH's suggestions](#) of providing funding for counsellors in every school and doubling funding for CAMHS.

<sup>1</sup> Recommendations are listed in this document in alphabetical order by MSYPs' first names.

## **Bailey-Lee Robb MSYP - Punishment in Schools**

- I recommend that both Government, and local authorities, urgently investigate and implement a plan on how students have their voice heard in the punishment procedure, and how we can further support pupils in the appeal process.

## **Cadely Paton MSYP - The Right to Play**

- The draft Children and Young People's Rights Action Plan should be amended to better take into account the many diverse communities that young people live in, by providing more places to play in, better public transport to access these and involving us in their development.

## **Calum MacArthur MSYP and Jack Norquoy MSYP**

### **- Mental Health**

- Serious work will need to be done to address our unique challenges with reduced staff and increasing referrals.
- It is clear that if we are to move forward and tackle these issues effectively, the voices of young people must be listened to throughout the process to find a solution, which will only react to the current climate, to help to prevent these problems for future generations.

## **Chloe Carmichael MSYP - Feminine Hygiene Products**

- I call on the Scottish Government to ensure the rights of young people who menstruate are properly protected by binding, not guiding, legislation - by planning to support [Monica Lennon MSP's upcoming Private Members Bill and campaign to end Period Poverty.](#)

## **Claire Forde MSYP - Disability and Independence**

- The introduction of a Bus and Train Charter would be most welcome. [RNIB Scotland have their own bus charter](#) which over 80% of bus companies are signed up to which sets out best practice for bus operators when interacting with blind or partially sighted customers, including increased communication, stopping at every stop where someone is waiting and looking into installing audio systems on their buses that announce stops as the bus approaches them. This could be incorporated into a Young Scots Bus Charter. A positive development to note is that in the Lothian and Borders region [something like](#)

[this already exists](#) and announcements are made on all buses, trams and trains. We would like to see this innovation extended to all Scottish regions.

- We would also like to see the introduction of a 'Buddy System' for blind and visually impaired students in mainstream schools. We would also welcome training for teachers and lecturers on sight-guiding and overall awareness of the very real issues affecting those with sight loss, seeking a good school or further education.
- These changes would require adequate, sufficient earmarked funding and planning involving us - as per [last year's recommendation to the UK from the UN Committee on the Rights of Person with Disabilities' review in paragraph 45.](#)

## Craig MacAulay MSYP - Mental Health

- The UN Economic and Social Rights Committee [recommended to the UK in its 2016 review](#) that the accessibility, availability and quality of mental health care must be ensured - for everyone regardless of where you live in Scotland.
- I welcome that [Action 14 of the Mental Health Strategy](#) is dedicated to increasing the workforce of mental health professionals, but I urge the Scottish Government to further ensure in its Children and Young People's Rights Action Plan that this provision is proportionate and tailored to the geography of the Highlands.

## Derry Moore MSYP - Empowering Rights Awareness

- I recommend that children and young people's rights education be made mandatory, including teacher training, as per [the UNCRC's recommendation in 2016, paragraph 73.](#)
- Furthermore, this education must be about the rights beyond the UNCRC, Human Rights Act and the ECHR to empower us to be human rights defenders.

## Emily Harle MSYP - Mental Health

- I think it is important to include a specific action ensuring that young people have strong mental health support within educational settings, whether this means implementing improved teacher training, or placing mental health professionals within educational environments.
- Two years ago, the UN Economic and Social Rights Committee [recommended that](#) the accessibility, availability and quality of mental health care must be ensured. With this in mind, every young person should have access to quality mental health services.

## **Fatima Bari MSYP - Islamophobia**

- I recommend you combat Islamophobia by creating an action in the plan around education about rights and Islam.

## **Jack Brady MSYP - Bullying**

- I believe that the principles that [Respect for All](#) promotes, such as respect and tolerance, should be embedded in human rights education and training not just for children and young people, but also for adults and other duty-bearers, to ensure bullying is tackled throughout life more holistically.
- I therefore recommend that the Scottish Government implement the phases addressing stakeholders of all ages in the [World Programme for Human Rights Education and Training](#).

## **Jack Dudgeon MSYP - Climate Change**

- The Children and Young People's Rights Action Plan should include concrete actions committing to ensuring that young people are fully and meaningfully consulted in any decisions affecting them regarding climate change. Better yet, make this obligation *binding, and not guiding*, through incorporation of the UNCRC.
- Furthermore, as per the [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendation to the UK in 2016, paragraph 73](#), human rights education in schools should be made mandatory, and [it should highlight the links between climate change and human rights](#).

## **Jack Norquoy MSYP - Brexit**

### **SYP's Brexit Manifesto: Rights Outright**

- 1) **Upholding workplace rights** - the rights of young people in the workplace need to be prioritised and respected.
- 2) **Participation** - young people must not be continued to be locked out of the rest of this process if we are to respect Article 12 of the UNCRC; we should have a far more official, meaningful representative voice at the table moving forward.
- 3) **Equalities and rights protection** - as we face the risk, it is important to acknowledge those, it's also important that we recognise the opportunities we have, and one massive opportunity that we have today is incorporation of the UNCRC which could provide the opportunity to strengthen rights here in Scotland. Any further devolution as a result of Brexit will make incorporation even more relevant.
- 4) **The right to remain** - we need that concrete assurance that EU nationals already contributing towards society have the right to remain, this is especially concerning as we see the rights of cross border families at risk.
- 5) **And finally the right to health** - we are calling on the UK Government to undertake an independent evaluation with wide consultation on the impact of the health and social care sectors.
  - Incorporation is a way of ensuring that rights can be protected when laws and policies are made here in Scotland and that will have that protective effect we need to shield ourselves against any negative regression as a result of Brexit.
  - Let Scotland as the free, fair and compassionate society we are show example to the world that we will lead on rights by protection and by binding all of our rights through incorporation.

## **John Walker MSYP - LGBT Bullying in Schools**

- Schools and local authorities should give teachers comprehensive training on how to combat all bullying, including LGBTI+ bullying, in schools.
- The Relationships education delivered in PSHE classes from Primary 6 to 6th Year should cover same sex relationships in the same depth as it covers mixed sex ones.

## **Josh Kennedy MSYP - Physical Punishment**

- A change in our culture is necessary if we seek to end violence inflicted onto children by their parents or guardians.
- We must ensure that children know to speak out about abuse and remove the stigma around this.
- Looking forward, we should ensure that PSHE, an educational blackspot in many cases, helps young people raise these kinds of issues when they occur.
- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child made a [concluding observation in 2016](#), that education on rights should be mandatory.
- In order to implement this, perhaps there needs to be a greater focus to ensure that our PSHE curriculum is improved across all fronts to ensure that our young people are learning this essential information and know to speak out.

## **Josh MacRae MSYP - Political Participation**

- I urge the Scottish Government to include a specific action recommending that political literacy is included in the S3 and S4 PSE courses - given that this is when young people can register and cast their vote in Scottish elections.

## **Khaled Emkidih MSYP - Support for Refugees**

- We are calling on the Scottish government to invest more in English classes to all young refugees, so they can achieve their aspirations.
- We have a big commitment to make sure young people's rights are fully protected. We want the UNCRC incorporated into Scots law. We want to empower all young people to lead the way and educate them of what rights they are entitled to.

## **Lauren Baigrie MSYP - Financial Support for Young and Young Adult Carers in Employment and Education.**

- We recommend considering a consistent level of financial support that is awarded because a young person is a young carer and not because of the possible income of their parents.
- We welcome the [New Young Carer Grant](#), however, we also encourage MSPs to constantly develop and monitor it, as there is concern it won't be enough of an incentive for young people to remain at school when they are 18.

## Lewis O'Neill MSYP - 'Mosquito' Devices

- While I welcome the coverage of mosquito devices in itself - the plan as it stands does not go far enough. The verdict is clear - these devices are not compatible with human rights. Please listen to the views of young people which have been gathered and note the research on their prevalence. Please revise the plan to ban these devices in a *binding, not guiding*, way.

## Logan Fraser MSYP - Outdoor Learning

- I recommend that the plan also include an action to promote outdoor learning specifically.
- My recommendation is backed up internationally, as [the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommended to devolved administrations in the UK in 2016 \(in paragraph 75 of its review\)](#) that you strengthen your efforts to guarantee our rights to leisure, play and recreational activities through adequate and sustainable funding, and to involve us in the planning, design and monitoring of these.
- Within this recommendation, I suggest the Government undertakes a Scotland specific study as to the benefits of outdoor learning on attainment, skills for life and mental health.

## Rebecca Craig MSYP - Freedom of Speech

- I propose that the draft aim to 'further raise awareness of children's rights, including amongst children and young people themselves' should be developed to ensure the full education and training of children, young people, teachers, service providers, the media and other stakeholders in freedom of expression.
- This extends to a further action on a [more comprehensive plan for Human Rights Education and Training](#), as recommended in [paragraph 73 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2016 review of the UK](#).

## **Reece Harding MSYP - Equal Pay for Equal Work**

- The Committee on Economic and Social Rights in its [2016 review of the UK in paragraph 37](#), recommended that:
- *The State party ensure that the national minimum wage is periodically reviewed and set at a level necessary to provide all workers and their families with a decent standard of living. It also recommends that the State party extend the protection of the national minimum wage to those under the age of 25.*
- I recommend that you include an action in this plan to extend the living wage to those under 18, and ensure that employers hiring young people especially are incentivised to give the living wage.
- I also recommend the Scottish Government call on the UK Government to ban zero hour contracts and make the National Minimum Wage universal for all ages, including apprentices.

## **Robbie Burgess MSYP - Bullying**

- I urge the Government in its plan to expand on how it will deliver this strategy in practise and transform it into an anti-bullying culture in Scotland. For example, as per the [UN recommendation from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2016 review of the UK: Paragraph 49](#): *The Committee recommends that the State party: Intensify its efforts to tackle bullying and violence in schools by monitoring regularly the incidences of bullying at school and involving children in the initiatives and monitoring aimed at eliminating bullying.*

## **Rory Smith MSYP - Freedom of Speech**

- There is currently no reference to maintaining religious freedom in the draft Young People's Rights Action Plan. A simple starting point would be for the Government to commit to bringing in a new specific strategy to protect the religious freedoms listed in the Barnabas fund petition.
- Additionally, the Scottish Government should seek to promote dialogue, healthy conversations and real respect of all values specifically in settings of formal education.
- These institutions, which play such a big part in shaping the lives of young people, should be at the forefront of protecting and promoting their human rights.

## Ryan McShane MSYP - Love and Relationships for Care-Experienced Young People.

- The Scottish Government should commit to making the experience of being in care a story of love, stability and care.
- Specifically, I recommend that you ensure that the proposed advocacy service is well-funded, accessible, and suitably tailored to care experienced young people, and *Who Cares? Scotland* is happy to assist you with the latter point.
- Furthermore, we feel that the UNCRC should be incorporated into Scots law.
- Our members know that the solutions are simple, and are determined that care can work, so that love can become a right.

## Sanna Aziz MSYP - Education

- I recommend that the Government adds an action to ensure rural areas are not discriminated against and local authority funding is maintained to ensure a variety of subjects that they need.
- I recommend that the Government looks at alternative ways to deliver education through interactive technology.
- I recommend that the Government ensures that all young people have the skills and knowledge that they need to be successful in life, in the career that they wish to pursue, as they promised in its [Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education](#) paper.