



## Scottish Youth Parliament Press Office

### **New report a “wakeup” call for public transport companies and government, says Scottish Youth Parliament** [EMBARGOED UNTIL 14.00PM ON 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY]

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) today launched their new campaign *All Aboard* at an event in Edinburgh.

Bailey-Lee Robb, MSYP for Cowdenbeath, aged 16, who launched the report, said:

“Our report shows far too many young people in Scotland have a bad experience of public transport, and that those experiences are affecting their quality of life.”

“I was shocked to find that nearly two in three respondents with a disability who responded told us they don’t feel comfortable using public transport. Nearly one in five of those we spoke to said their experiences of travelling on buses was either poor or terrible. And it is appalling that, in 2019, young female passengers are nearly three times as likely as male passengers to feel unsafe when travelling alone.”

“Many young people cannot drive, so public transport is their only option. This is an unacceptable situation, and I think our report needs to be a wakeup call for public transport and government, to ensure that we are provided with the transport services we deserve.”

MSYPs across Scotland consulted nearly 10,500 young people in the development of our campaign, and those experiences have led to the development of the report, *All Aboard*.

The report bases its recommendations on four key themes: reducing fares, accessibility, bus standards and youth participation.

The report outlines a number of key findings, including: nearly two in three respondents with a disability or access requirement do not feel comfortable using public transport; and that over one in five female respondents (21.9%) said they do not feel confident travelling alone, compared to less than one in ten male respondents (8.5%).

SYP will now enter the second phase of their annual national campaign, through which MSYPs will take the report and its findings to public transport companies and Regional Transport Partnerships and make the case to them directly for improved services.

## Notes to editor

1. To arrange an interview with Bailey Lee, and for all other media enquiries, please contact Rachel Ashenden, Communications Officer, at ([Rachel.a@syp.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.a@syp.org.uk)).
2. For a full summary of the key findings and recommendations disclosed in the report, please find them on our website: <https://bit.ly/2DjmHKA>.
3. [The Scottish Youth Parliament](#) (SYP) represents Scotland's young people. The charity's vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its children and young people. SYP's goal is to make this vision a reality, in order to ensure Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up.

A fundamentally rights-based organisation, SYP's mission, vision, and values are grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In particular, Article 12 - "Young people have the right to express their views freely and have their opinions listened to in all matters affecting them" - is at the heart of all work carried out in SYP's name.

4. Members of the media are welcome to attend the launch event in Edinburgh.

WHERE: City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9BX

DATE: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019

TIME: 1.45pm-3.25pm

Please respond to SYP's Communications Officer, Rachel Ashenden, at [Rachel.a@syp.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.a@syp.org.uk) if you would like to attend.