

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS



Policy 3:

The Scottish Government should deliver its promise of introducing the 'Human Rights Bill for Scotland' to incorporate treaties that will better protect disabled people's rights, rights of black and ethnic minority people, women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights.

Endorsed by:



Human Rights
Consortium
Scotland

What's this all about?

Young people told us how important it is for the Human Rights Bill to be implemented and the difference it will make in protecting communities furthest from their rights. Young people shared their experiences of prejudice and discrimination in Scotland, and reflected on the kind of positive Scotland they could build knowing that human rights are embedded within all decision-making and policy structures. Young people want to know that all human rights are being upheld and enforced in Scotland.

"This legislation is vital to ensure that all individuals in Scotland have the same protection and opportunities regardless of our background or identity. It will help to curb discrimination and promote equality"

– Young woman aged 14-17, Clackmannanshire

What are young people in Scotland calling for?

- The Scottish Government must ensure young people are actively and meaningfully involved in the development of a Human Rights Bill for Scotland that creates the kind of inclusive, fair, and equal Scotland young people want to see.

“Minorities are already ignored a lot, and add that to the hate crime and other difficulties, it can be tough. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I know how hard it is to feel seen.”

– Young woman aged 14-17, Dumfries and Galloway

- The Scottish Government and UK Government should work together to successfully ensure human rights on housing, healthcare and food can be fully realised in Scotland.

“Everyone deserves rights to live, no one should be treated differently for simply existing.”

– Young woman aged 18-21, North Ayrshire

- Decision makers should work together to foster inclusion and a culture of respect in Scotland.

“Disabled and Trans people’s rights specifically are under massive attack in the UK and need protecting in Scotland. As a trans person with trans and disabled friends, I am worried everyday about which one of my rights is going to be taken away next.”

– Young man aged 22-26, Edinburgh

Evidence and Support

- [Together - Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights](#) published their [Child-Friendly Consultation Analysis on the Human Rights Bill for Scotland](#) in 2024. During the consultation, they spoke to children and young people about what life is like for them and their friends. Some comments included: “There’s a lot of biases against people, especially people with different coloured skin” and “There is stigma around people with disabilities and the way they are judged”.
 - When children and young people were asked what difference they thought a new Human Rights Bill would make, comments included: “It would mean that young people have the chance to work with a diverse range of peers to build friendships and connections with people of different backgrounds and cultures” and “It would impact the young people of Scotland in the long term as we would grow to unlearn the prejudice taught to us by the older generations who did not have these rights in place when they were young and likely did not have the opportunity to mix with people from different backgrounds.”
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What has SYP done?

Previous [SYP Consultations](#) includes [SYP’s response to Scottish Government’s Human Rights Bill Consultation \(2023\)](#) and [SYP’s response to the Independent Human Rights Act Review \(2021\)](#). The [SYP Policy Log](#) includes policies on human rights such as protecting human rights by law; banning of arms sales linked to human rights abuses; education on human rights; LGBT issues such as a ban on LGBT Conversion Therapy; issues for people with disabilities such as for the United Nations Convention on

the Protection of Persons with Disabilities to be fully brought into Scots law; issues for refugees and asylum seekers such as reunite refugee and asylum-seeking children with their families in the UK; gender issues such as close the gender pay gap; decriminalisation of abortion; issues involving crime such as automatic anonymity for those who report they have been a victim of sexual offences; poverty issues such as eradication of poverty-induced hunger.