

Joint Statement on UK Rights Removal Bill

Our human rights are about the values we hold dear and the way we treat one another – they are about dignity, fairness, equality, tolerance, and respect. They are the foundations that help us live together freely and fairly - a safety net to protect us all. We are therefore alarmed that the UK Government has introduced a Bill to Parliament which, if enacted, will repeal the Human Rights Act and will significantly diminish protection for human rights in law.

Our experience of working with individuals and communities across Scotland is that the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) is an essential protection for our human rights. Indeed, many of our organisations submitted evidence to the Independent Review of the Human Rights Act detailing the ways in which the HRA is working well. We also collectively gave many hours of our time to respond to the UK Government's consultation on proposals for this Bill of Rights. However, both the Panel's recommendations and the consultation responses have been disregarded by the UK Government in the development of this Bill.

We are very concerned that there are many elements to this Bill that will significantly reduce human rights protection. These include, for example, restricting / narrowing our relationship with the European Court of Human Rights, lowering standards of protection, and making it harder for the court to protect us from serious and irreparable harm.

The rights removal bill will undermine all of our human rights and significantly impact the realisation of rights for individuals whose human rights are currently most at risk. The UK Government's proposals for reform are out of step with political and public opinion in Scotland. There is overwhelming support across Scotland to go forwards and not backwards on human rights, for a strong human rights legal framework and not one that is watered down.

We therefore strongly urge the UK Government to reconsider this Bill and instead, consider what can be done to better protect human rights for all in Scotland, and across the UK.

This statement is supported by the following 125 organisations:

Ability Borders SCIO



About Dementia



Advocacy Western
Isles



Africa & Caribbean Women's Association

African & Caribbean Elders In Scotland



Age Scotland



Alcohol Focus Scotland



Alliance



Alzheimer Scotland



Amnesty International UK



Angus Independent Advocacy



Angus Women's Aid



Article 12 in Scotland



Autism Rights Group Highland



Befriend a Child



BEMIS - Empowering Scotland's Ethnic & Cultural Minority Communities



Bridges Programmes



British Institute for Human Rights



Carers Trust Scotland



CEMVO Scotland



Central Scotland
Regional Equality
Council



Child Rights
International Network



Children & Young
People's
Commissioner
Scotland



Children 1st



Children In Scotland



Children's Parliament



Church of Scotland



Citizens Advice
Edinburgh



Clackmannanshire
Women's Aid



Clan Childlaw



Close the Gap



Coalition of Carers in
Scotland



Community
Infosource



Contact Scotland



Cornerstone
Community Care



Deaf Accessibility &
Equality Form



Disability Equality
Scotland



Disabled Persons
Housing Service
Borders



Dundee Women's Aid



Dyslexia Scotland



Each Other



East and Southeast
Asian Scotland



East Dunbartonshire
Women's Aid



Empower Women for
Change



Enable Scotland



Engender



Environmental Rights
Centre For Scotland



Equality Network



Faith in Older People



Feniks



Glasgow Council For
the Voluntary Sector



Glasgow East
Women's Aid



Glasgow Women's Aid



Global Justice Now



Govan Community
Project



Grampian Regional
Equality Council



Grampian Women's
Aid



Hansel



Human Rights
Consortium Scotland



Humanist Society
Scotland



Include Me



Includem



Inclusion Scotland



Jacqui Dunbar



Jimmy Reid Foundation



JustRightScotland



KristyInnes PR



Latta & Co



Legal Services Agency



Licketyspit



LGBT Youth Scotland



Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)



Lochaber Women's Aid



Making Rights Real



Maryhill Integration Network



Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)



Monklands Women's Aid



National Autistic Taskforce



Nourish Scotland



Parenting Across Scotland



Partners In Advocacy



Perthshire Women's Aid



Pilton Youth and Children's Project



Play Scotland



Play Wise Therapy



Poverty And Inequality Commission



Quakers



Refugee Survival Trust



Safari



Safe in Scotland



Salvesen Mindroom Centre



SCIAF



Scottish Association of Social Work



Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber CIC



Scottish Care



Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities



Scottish Community Development Centre



Scottish Episcopal Church



Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance



Scottish Recovery Consortium



Scottish Refugee Council



Scottish Sensory Centre



Scottish Trans Alliance



Scottish Women's Aid



Scottish Women's Convention



Scottish Women's Rights Centre



Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance



Shared Lives Plus



Shelter Scotland



Shetland Women's Aid



STAF



Starcatchers



Streets Ahead



STUC



Talking Mats



The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection



tsi Moray



United Free Church of Scotland



Upstart Scotland



Visibility Scotland



Welfare Scotland



Who Cares? Scotland



Women for Independence



Women's Aid South Lanarkshire & East Renfrewshire



CaTE Consultancy Ltd



Children's Health Scotland



Argyll & Bute Women's Aid

