



Ruth Maguire MSP
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee
Scottish Parliament

8 October 2020

Dear Convener,

Getting Rights Right

In 2018, the Human Rights Consortium Scotland warmly welcomed the publication of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee's report 'Getting Rights Right: Human Rights in the Scottish Parliament'. The report made a number of very valuable recommendations to the Scottish Government, Parliament and other bodies and had a welcome focus on embedding a human rights culture in Scotland through changes to the legislative process. As Scotland's civil society organisation for the protection of human rights, we were particularly excited about the recommendation for the Scottish Government to better involve the third sector in international treaty monitoring.

As you know, it is now two years since 'Getting Rights Right' was published. A number of the report's key recommendations were given a 1-3 year timeline, while others were singled out for immediate attention. Across civil society, many organisations and groups were engaged in contributing to the Committee's inquiry and so we are now writing to ask for an update on the progress of these recommendations in order to share this with our members. We further highlight that, particularly given current threats to human rights protections related to Brexit and the continuing negative rhetoric around the Human Rights Act 1998 and its use, we are concerned that the Parliament continues to progress the steps that it will take to be a 'human rights guarantor'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Snowden", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mhairi Snowden
Coordinator
Human Rights Consortium Scotland