



SCOTLAND DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Scotland Declaration on Human Rights

Introduction

In 2018, in the midst of concern about rolling back on human rights and equality protections when the UK left the EU, and about ongoing negative rhetoric around human rights, over 200 organisations in Scotland gave their support to the Scotland Declaration on Human Rights. This Declaration is a strong statement that overwhelmingly, Scottish civil society want to see stronger human rights protections for all – and never less.

The Declaration

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year - states:

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights"

Human rights belong to everyone; rich or poor, old or young, whether born in this country or another. We all have rights regardless of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion, age, gender or belief. We together declare that human rights and equalities must remain at the heart of Scottish society.

We, the undersigned, share profound concerns about the potential loss of equality and rights protections as a consequence of the UK leaving the European Union and about the persistent negative rhetoric around the protection and promotion of rights in the UK.

We want Scotland to be a leader and not a laggard in human rights terms.

We therefore call on law and policy makers to take all possible steps to protect our rights and to make Scotland a world leader in both rights protection and implementation.

We believe that the following principles must apply in all decisions that affect human rights:

No going back

Human rights and equalities protections in law, policy and practice must not be reduced or regressed for any individual, group, community or sector of the population.

Progression

Human rights standards should be continually strengthened over time. Scotland must help to shape and adopt the highest international human rights and equalities standards.

Transparency

Any changes to existing rights protections should be undertaken only with a fully transparent consultation process and the appropriate degree of parliamentary scrutiny at all levels.

Participation

The people of Scotland must be engaged in a process of understanding what their rights are, how they are protected and what more can be done to protect their rights. Any significant change in the protection of rights must be based on this meaningful engagement.

Signatories

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC)



Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS)



Shelter Scotland



Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)



Hansel Foundation



Maryhill Integration Network



Contact the Elderly



Break the Silence



EU Citizens for an Independent Scotland



Deaf Action



Castlemilk Law and Money Advice Centre



Saltire Society Scotland



Engage Renfrewshire



Forth Valley Migrant Support Network



**FORTH VALLEY
MIGRANT SUPPORT
NETWORK**

Quakers Scotland



Adopt an Intern



Girlguiding Scotland



Breast Cancer Prevention Scotland



challenge breast cancer scotland

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities



**Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities**

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs



Scottish Families
Affected by Alcohol & Drugs

Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service



Counselling and Psychotherapy in Scotland (COSCA)



Peace and Justice Centre



The Welcoming Association



Families Need Fathers Scotland



Edinburgh Secular Society

national
secular
society

Glasgow Skeptics



Instant Neighbour Aberdeen



Scottish Secular Society



Media Co-Op

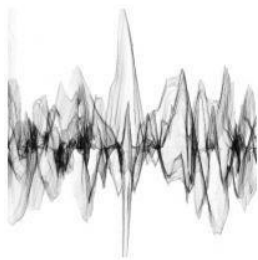


Stranraer Millenium Centre Community Trust



Realtime Arts

Realtime Arts



Working Legal



Nemo Arts



Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council

**Glencoe & Glen Etive
Community Council**

People First (Scotland)



Social Enterprise Network Scotland

SENSCOT

Tesol Training Scotland



Scottish Care



Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund



Scottish Refugee Scotland



Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Scotland



University of Strathclyde



Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD)



Barfil Farm

**Barfil
Farm**

Reb Law Scotland

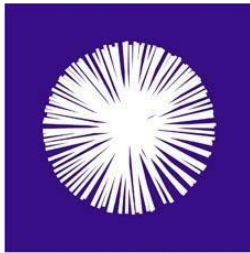


Centre for Scottish Constitutional Studies



Centre for Scottish
Constitutional Studies

Scottish Environment LINK



Scottish
Environment

LINK

Well-weaving Studio



Trans Media Watch



TRANS
MEDIA WATCH
Accuracy - Dignity - Respect

Familias en Glasgow- Club Soletes



Orkney Rape Crisis



Edinburgh Tenants Federation



University of Glasgow



The Social Care Trainer



Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)



Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland



Voluntary Action Scotland

Voluntary
Action
Scotland

Disability Agenda Scotland



Voices of Experience (VOX) Scotland



Unlock Democracy



Inclusion Scotland



Our voices ■ Our choices

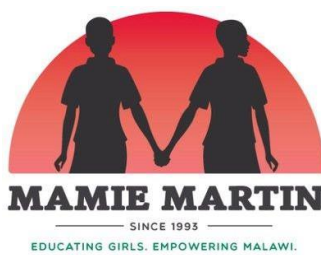
Development Trusts Association Scotland



Alzheimer Scotland



Mamie Martin Fund



Scottish Football Association



Carers Trust



Sight Scotland



Children's Parliament



Community Land Scotland



Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland



British Medical Association



The British Institute of Human Rights



The Church of Scotland



The Church of Scotland

Legal Services Agency Ltd



Stepping Stones



Scottish Recovery Network (SRN)



The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)



Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER)



Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland



Engender



Colleges Scotland



Scotland's International Development Alliance



TSI Moray



Cunning Creations



Dyslexia Scotland



Scottish Women's Aid



Corra Foundation



PAMIS



Volunteer Centre East Lothian



Lintel Trust



Self Directed Support Scotland



Alcohol Focus Scotland



DeafScotland



Inspired by Autism



The Poverty Alliance



British Dental Association



Scottish Rural Action



Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

Support from the Start



Sense Scotland



C-Change Scotland



Royal College of Nursing Scotland



Central Scotland Regional Equality Council



See Me



Barnardo's Scotland



Lead Scotland



International Voluntary Service (Scotland)



OurStory Scotland



Georgian Centre in Scotland



Inclusive Skating



Befriending Networks Ltd



Glasgow Disability Alliance



Humanist Society Scotland



AdvoCard



Positive Prison? Positive Futures



Forth Valley Advocacy



Ceartas



Ekklesia



Equality Network



Massive Outpouring Of Love (MOOL)



Fife Centre for Equalities



Mental Health Foundation Scotland



JustRight Scotland



Welfare Scotland



Scottish Community Alliance



Bridges Programmes



Versus Arthritis



Rape Crisis Scotland



REACH Advocacy Scotland



Faces and Voices of Recovery UK



Enable Scotland



Scottish Communities Climate Action Network



Women for Independence



Royal College of Midwives UK Board for Scotland



Scottish Women's Rights Centre



Samaritans Scotland



Farsight Green Tec



The Jimmy Reid Foundation



Scottish Women's Convention



Hayfield



Who Cares? Scotland



CVS Falkirk and District



Clan Childlaw



The Action Group



Unison Scotland



Kindaba



Zero Tolerance



Amnesty International Scotland



National Union of Students (NUS) Scotland



Close the Gap



Close the Gap

Scottish Association of Social Work



Kirsty Innes PR



Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)



Nourish Scotland



Children 1st



Scottish Youth Parliament



Scottish Community Development Centre



Disability Equality Scotland



Association of Chief Officers of Scottish Voluntary Organisations



National Deaf Children's Society



The Third Generation Project



Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)



HIV Scotland



Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)



Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance



Article 12 in Scotland



BEMIS Scotland



Sikh Sanjog



Scottish Universities Legal Network on Europe



Scotland Declaration on Human Rights FAQs

Who has written this Declaration?

The Scotland Declaration on Human Rights was developed by the Human Rights Consortium Scotland and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), supported by the Scottish Human Rights Commission and the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The text was developed in consultation with stakeholders.

What are human rights?

Human rights are about dignity, respect, equality and freedom. They include 'civil and political' rights, such as freedom of expression, freedom of religion or conscience, the right to a fair trial and the right to privacy. Human rights also include 'economic, social and cultural' rights, such as the right to adequate food, housing, sanitation and water, the right to health and the right to education.

For example, human rights mean that elderly couples have the right to live together in their old age. They mean that there are restrictions on how the government or companies can use your data and contact details. Human rights mean that government needs to plan and budget for disabled people to have accessible housing. There are more examples of human rights protecting our daily lives

here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/secondary-education-resources/useful-information/human-rights-case-studies>

Why should my organisation support this Declaration?

We are asking as many organisations as possible to show support for this Declaration. This includes organisations working across many different issues or subjects, and from different parts of Scotland. This also includes organisations who do not often talk about human rights but who recognise that equality and human rights are important for Scotland.

Most importantly, by giving your support to the Scotland Declaration on Human Rights, your organisation can show its support for equality and human rights in Scotland.

OK I will sign up to the Declaration -what happens next?

Once we have received your sign-up form, we will put your organisation name and logo on to the signatory list on the website www.humanrightsdeclaration.scot We will include your organisation in the public list of signatories. We will invite as many signatories as possible to an event to highlight the Declaration in early 2018.

Who should support the Scotland Declaration on Human Rights?

Every organisation which supports equality and human rights in Scotland.

Where can I get more information about the Scotland Declaration on Human Rights or discuss it further?

If you would like more information or to discuss the Declaration further, you are invited to get in touch at info@hrcscotland.org

