



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

11th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Thursday 19 April 2018

Present:

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Deputy Convener)	Mary Fee
Christina McKelvie (Convener)	Gail Ross
David Torrance	Annie Wells

Apologies were received from Jamie Greene.

The meeting opened at 9.02 am.

1. **Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament:** The Committee took evidence from—

Nick Hobbs, Head of Advice and Investigations, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland;

Nora Uhrig, Senior Associate - Programmes Scotland, Equalities and Human Rights Commission;

Marie Anderson, Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman, Northern Ireland Ombudsman;

Judith Robertson, Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission;

Delia Henry, Director of Charity Services, Age Scotland;

Anthony Horan, Director, Catholic Parliamentary Office of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland;

Ally Thomson, Director, Dying in Dignity;

Lucy Mulvagh, Director of Policy and Communications, Health and Social Care Alliance;

Gordon MacRae, Chief Executive, Humanist Society;

Bill Scott, Director of Policy, Inclusion Scotland;

Michael Clancy, Director of Law Reform, Law Society of Scotland;

Graham O'Neill, Policy Officer, Scottish Refugee Council;

Helen Martin, Assistant General Secretary, Scottish Trades Union Congress.

2. **Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence received.
3. **Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1, and agreed to issue a call for written evidence as part of this approach. The Committee agreed to consider any further approach to scrutiny of the Bill, any consideration of the evidence received, and any draft reports or letters, in private, at future meetings. The Committee also agreed to delegate to the Convener responsibility for agreeing any witnesses expenses made under the SPCB witness expense scheme.
4. **Prisoner Voting in Scotland (in private):** The Committee agreed to consider this item, in private, at its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.32 am.

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