

Rights To Reality

Charter of Rights for Independent Living

Manifesto for General Election 2010

Glasgow Disability Alliance
The White Studios, Suite 301, Templeton Business Centre,
Glasgow, G40 1DA
Tel: 0141 556 7103 Fax: 0141 550 4937

tressaburke@gdaonline.co.uk

Contents

1. Forward By Tressa Burke, Director of GDA
2. About Glasgow Disability Alliance
3. Facts and Figures about Disability – why rights are needed
4. Why human rights matter in the General Election
5. GDA Charter of Rights: How we got here
6. Experience of Disabled People having rights ignored
7. GDA Charter of Rights
8. What you can do
9. Further information

“... Published material to date indicates that the delivery of Independent Living support to disabled people is more cost effective, or at least no more expensive, than traditional care provision. The small amount of data that did exist at macro level also indicated that considerable cost savings could accrue to the Exchequer, in increased tax revenues and reduced benefits payments, from investing in Independent Living support ”,

“The costs and benefits of independent living: Executive Summary”,
Hurstfield, Parashar and Schofield, on behalf of the Office of
Disability Issues, Department of Work and Pensions.

1. Forward

The only form of government which the United Nations' recognises is democratic government. As we elect our UK Government, we exercise the human right of participating in 'free and fair' elections. The General Election will be held on 6th May 2010 and provides the opportunity to be an active citizen by listening to and participating in debates, meeting candidates who call you at home or meet in the street. The democratic process culminates in being able to freely vote in the election for a candidate you trust and respect on issues such as welfare reform.

GDA has always been a strong supporter of human rights but the most frequently asked question by disabled people is 'but what difference will they make to my life?' This is a clever question as unless we can make human rights real for people then they are simply words. GDA wants to give these words more meaning than registering your personal vote at periodic elections. GDA believes that human rights provide a set of principles and standards that will improve public services and people's experiences of using those services. GDA wants to make our human rights in Scotland matter – matter to us and matter to policy makers, funders and planners of services.

GDA decided to ask people what rights they want and then we analysed what rights people already have in theory and got a complete match! What we want is what we are already supposed to be entitled to! This Manifesto seeks to share that information with election candidates. We invite candidates to make a promise to actively promote human rights within their party and if elected to Government e.g. to ensure staff delivering public services fulfil their human rights obligations.

So how did we agree our list of 14 rights? GDA has involved our members about a Charter of Rights for disabled people including:

- GDA Learning Festivals and Showcase events where members have worked on lists of rights which they felt to be fundamental and agreed that Independent Living should be the key theme
- GDA's Board of Directors, Learning Reference & Campaign Action Groups
- GDA's work with hundreds of learners including young disabled people
- GDA partnership events e.g. Skill's Development Scotland & Inclusion Scotland, Quarriers, Cardonald College, Independent Living in Scotland

We have continually kept up to date with policy and service developments and analysed findings in this wider context.

Over 700 disabled people have taken part in agreeing this Charter of Rights for Disabled People in Glasgow and even more were keen to use the Charter to make a positive difference to their lives. So they asked GDA to work with others to make these rights a reality. This Manifesto is part of GDA's commitment to mainstream the Charter in service delivery and policy decisions on reserved matters.

Tressa Burke, GDA Director

2. Introduction – About Glasgow Disability Alliance

Background

Glasgow Disability Alliance is a membership-led organisation of disabled people and groups in Glasgow. Membership currently stands at almost 800 including 38 groups led by disabled people as well as individuals, by far the biggest groundswell of disabled members in Scotland. Established in 2001, our mission is to act as the collective, representative voice of disabled people, promoting equality, rights and social justice

Values: Social model of Disability and Independent Living

GDA believes that disabled people are disabled by barriers in society which has not planned for their inclusion. Disability is not about impairments or medical conditions. It is a complex social problem and choice and control depend on removing these barriers so that disabled people can fulfil their potential.

GDA is committed to challenging discrimination and building the skills and confidence of disabled citizens so that they are empowered to have dignity, freedom, choice and control over their own lives. GDA works in partnership as part of the Independent Living Movement in Glasgow and Scotland.

Advice, Information & Influencing

GDA provides advice, information, training and consultancy for organisations and agencies, sharing disabled people's experiences and helping with engagement of disabled citizens as a route to improving access to learning and services in a wider sense e.g. colleges, social work, health, transport, community planning partnership etc. We act as a voice for disabled people and more importantly, support and encourage disabled people to develop their own voices to become citizen leaders. GDA is a catalyst for change, working in partnership to promote equality and inclusion and improve the life chances of disabled people.

Learning For Change

With Big Lottery funding, GDA provides information, advice, accessible learning and opportunities for involvement in decision making, with and for disabled people in Glasgow. Learning For Change provides a range of accessible lifelong learning courses so that disabled people can build confidence & skills and reach their full potential.

More Choices, More Chances: Independent Living & Young Disabled People

GDA and Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living have received a grant from the GB EHRC to fund a project promoting independent living for young disabled people to enable more choices and greater control over their lives through building knowledge, skills and confidence to access independent living.

3. Facts and Figures about Disability – why rights are needed

In 2009, the UN reviewed the UK's performance on human rights and stated that it,

“continues to be concerned about the de facto discrimination experienced by some of the most disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups, such as ... persons with disabilities, in the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights, especially in the fields of housing, employment, and education, despite the measures adopted by the State party to enhance its legal and institutional mechanisms aimed at combating discrimination”¹

- Scotland has over one million disabled adults covered by the Disability Discrimination Act and 10% of these live in Glasgow²
- 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem³
- 758,000 people are deaf or hard of hearing (5-6,000 are first language BSL users)⁴
- 36,000 people are registered blind or partially sighted⁵
- 5,000 people have dual sensory impairments⁶
- 120,000 people have a learning difficulty⁷
- Figures from a Scottish Parliamentary answer indicate that there were 96,000 wheelchair users in Scotland in 2006. Yet there were only 5,800 wheelchair adapted houses. The Scottish Household Survey 2005 found that there is an estimated need for an additional 230,000 properties throughout Scotland suitable for disabled people and their families⁸.
- 42% of households with one or more disabled people have an annual income of less than £10,000. This compares with figures of 26% for households with no disabled person.⁹
- Disabled people are twice as likely as others to have no recognised qualifications.¹⁰

¹ 'Concluding Observations on the UK' UN Committee on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights' pub May 2009, Para 16 E/C.12/GBR/CO/5

² Scottish Council Foundation, 2005 'Disability in Scotland 2005-2020: A State of the Nation Report'

³ Disability Agenda Scotland 2010 Manifesto

⁴ Op cit

⁵ Op cit

⁶ Op cit

⁷ Op cit

⁸ Written Answer by Stewart Maxwell MSP to Jamie Hepburn MSP, Sept. 2007, (S3W-03653)

⁹ Scottish Council Foundation, 2005 'Disability in Scotland 2005-2020: A State of the Nation Report'

- The rate of unemployment amongst disabled graduates is 14% higher than that for non-disabled adults with no qualifications at all.¹¹
- Young disabled people aged 16 are twice as likely not to be in any form of education, employment or training (NEET) as their non-disabled peers – this increases to three times as likely by the age of 19.¹²
- By the age of 26, young disabled people are more than three times as likely as other young people to agree with the statement “whatever I do has no real effect on what happens to me”¹³
- 52% of disabled people are unemployed,¹⁴ and disabled people are at considerable risk of living in poverty, with severe consequences for their families and children.¹⁵
- Disabled adults are now more likely to live in poverty than either pensioners or children¹⁶.
- Of all children living in poverty, one in three has a disabled parent¹⁷.
- The Westminster Government estimated that in 2004/5, 40% of households experiencing fuel poverty contained a disabled person. That would translate to nearly 250,000 households in Scotland at present (i.e. 40% of 618,000)¹⁸.
- Disabled people in work are more likely to be in low paid, low skilled jobs¹⁹
- 50% of disabled people do not receive the disability living allowance they are entitled to²⁰
- People who are disabled officially constitute only 6% of formal volunteers and around 4.3% of public appointments across Britain. This is compared to 20% of the population at large.²¹

¹⁰ Department for Education and Skills

¹¹ Guy Palmer, et al, (2005), “Monitoring poverty and social exclusion”, published by JRF

¹² Department for Education and Skills

¹³ Burchardt (2005) ‘The education and employment of disabled young people: frustrated ambition’

¹⁴ Scottish Government news release, Helping disabled people into work, 23 February 2010.

¹⁵ Fabian Society (2006) ‘Narrowing the Gap: the Final Report of the Fabian Commission on Life Chances and Child Poverty’

¹⁶ Guy Palmer, et al, (2005) “[Monitoring poverty and social exclusion](#)”, published by JRF

¹⁷ Lyon, N., Barnes, M. and Sweiry, D. (2006) ‘Families with Children in Britain: Findings from the 2004 Families and Children Study’, Department for Work and Pensions Research Report 340.

¹⁸ Ministerial reply by Malcolm Wicks MP to Roger Berry MP, Hansard, 19 Feb 2008: Column 653W.

¹⁹ Disability Rights Commission (2006) ‘Disability Briefing March 2006’.

²⁰ Department of Work and Pensions

²¹ DRC (2006) Disability Agenda “Increasing Participation & Active Citizenship”

4. Why human rights matter in the General Election

Human Rights belong to all of us, all of the time, equally. We share a set of values and principles internationally through seven ratified UN Human Rights Treaties and across Europe most notably the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) which all focus on basic rights and freedoms. The problem is that we do not know about our rights and too often our rights are not respected. Enjoyment of these rights is matched with responsibilities and duties to other people, to the human community and to future generations e.g. environmental protection is about our lives just now as well as the quality of life of our children and grandchildren.

The Human Rights Act 1998

The Act places a duty on the public sector to comply with the ECHR and allows people to raise cases in Scottish Courts as well as take cases to the court in Strasbourg. Respect for these rights is key to independent living such as 'the right to have an opinion (Article 10) and the right to respect for family life (Article 8)

World-wide

The UK has ratified seven UN human rights treaties and UK has promised the UN that it will not ratify a treaty unless the Government is satisfied that domestic law and practice enable it to comply:

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Convention Against Torture (CAT)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

Human Rights and Independent Living

Human rights principles of fairness, respect, equality, dignity & autonomy are a perfect match to the principles of independent living which is a key issue for GDA members i.e. **freedom, choice, dignity and control**. These apply, not only to specific services for disabled people, but to the whole of disabled people's interactions with society; its organisations, facilities and structures.

This Manifesto is written to inform candidates that decisions on public services must protect and respect our individual human rights. Core to that decision making framework are these principles as well as the human rights standards covering civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights. The following rights, identified by disabled people, match rights contained in Treaties already adopted by our Government.

5. GDA Charter of Rights: How we got here

GDA undertook a survey of over 700 disabled people to ask what rights matter to them and to list what rights will make a difference to their lives. The result was a lot of agreement. Fourteen rights are now listed which can deliver the human rights principles of fairness, respect, equality, dignity and autonomy. Each right is an echo of what has already been agreed by Government as GDA has matched each right with:

- a standard in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights which already apply to EU institutions when making decisions which impact on all our lives
- with a standard in the ECHR
- and with rights listed in the UN Treaties which our Government has ratified.

Examples include GDA Charter Right 8 'Inclusive education including the right to lifelong learning' which matches Protocol 1, Article 2 of the ECHR 'no person shall be denied the right to education'. Another example is GDA Charter Right 9 'Equal opportunities for meaningful employment and training for work' matches Article 31 of the EU Charter "Every worker has the right to working conditions which respect his or her health, safety and dignity" as well as Article 7 of the ICESCR which recognises the right to work.

Not surprisingly, the rights also echo those of the disabled peoples' Independent Living movement in Scotland and this right is contained in Article 10 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons 'Living Independently & being included in the Community'. This is a right which disabled people demand across the world as it applies to choice and control over every part of life,

"Independent living means disabled people of all ages having the same freedom, choice, dignity and control as other citizens at home, at work and in the community. It does not mean living by yourself or fending for yourself. It means rights to practical assistance and support to participate in society and live an ordinary life," (Scottish Alliance on Independent Living, 2008).

Many people take the following rights for granted but for disabled people, enjoying these rights on a daily basis is an uphill struggle and has been described by GDA members as "an impossible dream". It does not have to be this way and should not be happening as all of the rights are already protected in existing human rights charters. So the question is why are these rights being ignored?

This Manifesto challenges any confusion about what MPs can achieve in making rights a reality. The reserved powers of the UK Parliament enable MPs to achieve a lot as they have responsibility for social security, equal opportunities and human rights which are also devolved matters. They also control financial and economic matters including fiscal, economic and monetary policy, trade and industry, consumer protection, transport, media and culture as well as elections.

6. GDA Manifesto Demands

GDA asks politicians to support the following demands and make changes in policy as well as make funding available to implement:

1. A strengthening of the human rights and disability equality duties on the public sector in Scotland so that human rights abuses are prevented.
2. More information and support for disabled people including from disabled peoples' organisations to enable better understanding of their human rights and rights to independent living.
3. Mandatory disability equality and human rights training for all public sector professionals and staff including an understanding of how to implement the legal human rights of disabled people as part of their daily work and not an optional extra

Experience of Disabled People Having Rights ignored

Disabled people involved in drawing up this Charter of Rights have stated that they are frequently denied appropriate personal support and services and that this in turn prevents them from participating fully in economic, social, political and cultural life,

“There are hidden costs involved when you're a disabled person. Poverty limits my choices on top of lack of access. Its layers and layers of problems from my house, to not having transport to the fact that I can't take part in jury service as there's no communication support which I need as I have a hearing impairment”

Further problems arise when disabled people are denied the freedom and right to make their own choices and this undermines a sense of control and prevents or limits even modest goals and aspirations,

“I think ordinary things that most people take for granted, often seem like impossible dreams for disabled people. Like choosing when to go out and be spontaneous, thinking about the job you'd really like to do, going to your child's parents night and not having to meet their teachers in your car, going to the toilet and not having to leave the door open due to poor access,” (GDA Member).

The following Charter of Rights is realistic and covers things taken for granted by ordinary people living ordinary lives. These are existing entitlements of disabled people to human rights and are necessary for independent living,

“Independent living is a means to an end. That end is a life which offers full and equal opportunities to take part in work, in learning, in having a family, in moving house, in using transport, in being an active member of my children's PTA! These now have to be understood in terms of human and civil rights, supported by legislation and policy”, (GDA Campaign Action Group on Independent Living).

7. GDA Charter of Rights

GDA Charter Right 1

A decent income including state benefits for those unable to work. Poverty is high amongst disabled people who experience barriers into learning, education and work: these would normally be potential routes out of poverty. Consequently, living on benefits at low level is a determining factor on quality of life. Benefits often don't account for additional "hidden" costs of being a disabled person e.g. community care charges, taxi costs, extra heating bills, adaptations etc. This should be rectified with decent level income in recognition of the connection between poverty and disability and the consequences for reducing life chances e.g. increasing poor health. In addition, there should be a review of the Employment Support Allowance Capability Test. This medical test is for those claiming Incapacity Benefit and is resulting in thousands of disabled people losing their benefits.

GDA Charter Right 2

Accessible and adapted housing is required with the need for houses to meet agreed standards. New homes should be built with a higher percentage of barrier free or wheelchair accessible houses. Grants should be readily available for those disabled people requiring aids and adaptations to their homes to enable access. Accessible Housing registers should be developed. Since disabled people are more likely to rent, social housing should be built to better access standards. More accessible information should be provided to disabled people about housing rights.

GDA Charter Right 3

Personal Assistance should be provided through direct payments or self-directed support to enable choice, control and flexibility. This should not be a postcode lottery and direct payments or self-directed support should be rights based and available on demand. Community care charges should not be applied to further disadvantage disabled people who may then be unable to afford to work as a result. Charges should be abolished and the financing of this should be considered strategically as part of a fairer tax system and allocation to public services. Service User involvement should be central to planning and developing more efficient and cost effective services which meet need. Joined up working should be promoted so that a disabled person can have their rights recognised across their whole life.

Recent proposed entitlement criteria changes to the DWP funded Independent Living Fund (ILF) are of extreme concern to GDA members. If the ILF only accept new applications only from those working 16hrs or more then non-working disabled people may be placed by the Local Authority into residential institutions, restricting independence and human rights. This will also impact on the contribution they can make to society, communities and the wider economy.

GDA Charter Right 4

Accessible information- this should be readily available in accessible formats including easy read and plain language. This is something which can be put in place easily as the information already exists but is remote and sometimes non-existent to disabled people. If knowledge is power then disabled people are further disempowered by lack of accessible information and this must change.

Organisations led by disabled people can advise about this.

GDA Charter Right 5

Communication support – this should be readily available so that people can participate in all aspects of life. For example to take part in jury service, interpreters or notetakers may be necessary for deaf people and those with hearing impairments as well as those disabled people with cognitive processing problems. Communication support should be a right and this would open up all sorts of other opportunities and rights which some disabled people are currently denied e.g. to work.

GDA Charter Right 6

Advocacy and working towards self-advocacy- funding should be provided for organisations led by disabled people to provide advocacy and support the development of self-advocacy through confidence building, peer support and other learning. Gaps also exist in these types of services so there should be provision across all areas and mapping of what currently exists. Information should be collated about provision of advocacy and self-advocacy support for disabled people.

GDA Charter Right 7

Technical aids, equipment & technology are important in reducing barriers and promoting a better life for disabled people. These should be readily available in all areas and not be dependent on which local authority you live in. Small pieces of equipment can make a tremendous difference to a disabled person's life and self-assessment should be developed as a direct route to provision. Information and support should be available about the kinds of aids, equipment and technology which exist.

GDA Charter Right 8

Inclusive education including lifelong learning is a critical right for disabled people with so much of life being determined by access to education and the opportunities this brings. Disabled children and adults must have legal rights to access inclusive, mainstream education which takes account of both rights and needs. This will also depend on disabled learners having the legal right to

individualised support, on buildings being accessible and course materials and assessments being accessible and inclusive of disabled learners.

Currently, disabled learners are the only group of people who can be forcibly educated separately from their non-disabled peers at school and college. The current Equality Bill prevents education providers from segregating learners on any grounds **other than disability**. Choice is critical here and legal rights would ensure this.

Lifelong Learning opportunities are also critical throughout life and these must also be available and accessible. For lifelong learning, both public and voluntary sector learning should be funded to enable quality learning opportunities that offer choice, flexible delivery, challenge and progression for disabled learners. This will also ensure that people can access local learning provision e.g. through community based learning projects as a first step to engaging in higher levels of learning.

GDA Charter Right 9

Equal opportunities for meaningful employment and training for work.

Discrimination prevails in terms of applying for work and progression in employment. Disabled people must have equal opportunities back up by positive recruitment processes which encourage disabled applicants. Disability Equality Training should be given to staff and managers who also work with disabled people and the workplace should be adjusted to suit the needs of disabled employees. This should include positive policies such as Disability Leave so that disabled employees are not unfairly disadvantaged by stringent absence monitoring arrangements which exist in some agencies. Access to work should be widely promoted and take up of this scheme supported and encouraged. Volunteering, training and work experience opportunities should be increased, supported and recognised as a valuable progression towards employment.

GDA Charter Right 10

Accessible and inclusive healthcare for physical, emotional and mental health

for all disabled people. GDA calls for accessible healthcare facilities and staff trained in disability equality across the board. Flexibility and choice in provision is necessary to accommodate a broad range of needs of disabled people with a range of impairments. An understanding of the barriers in provisions is required by planners and service managers and access must be developed as a right and not a “special” provision in line with the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: CESCR states that disabled people have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the right to an adequate standard of living. Service User involvement should be central to planning more efficient, cost effective and joined up, holistic services e.g. health and social work acting together.

GDA Charter Right 11

Peer support including organisations led by disabled people should be recognised as important. GDA's Toolkit should be adopted as a guide to involving disabled people. This highlights the need for a commitment to funding "impartial community development support" to work with people to identify issues of concern and work together on these to challenge inequalities. Clearly, organisations led by disabled people have experience of involving disabled people in identifying priorities and working together to come up with "solutions". They also have something to offer in relation to getting to "grassroots" disabled people, expertise in methodology for doing this and often a track record in building active citizenship with disabled people. Funding and opportunities for involvement must be in place to enable this.

GDA Charter Right 12

Meaningful opportunities for civic and political participation, citizenship & involvement in decisions which affect our lives. Public bodies and wider organisations should encourage and be supportive of political and community leaders, senior executives and staff members who are open about experiences of impairment or long term health conditions. This will provide positive role models and create higher expectations amongst disabled people. Political parties should use targeted initiatives to increase representation and involvement within their parties, of disabled people. Planning structures and service user involvement initiatives should involve disabled people from the outset- co-production should be considered and used where possible. Leadership of disabled citizens should be supported, funded and celebrated. Public appointments should encourage disabled people and there should be positive action taken to increase uptake.

GDA Charter Right 13

Full access to our environment should be available for everyone. This should include access to buildings, transport, parking and public spaces. It should also include streets, pavements and workplaces as well as shopping areas. If disabled people have greater freedom to move around in the build environment, then life-chances would improve and opportunities would open up. Access Panels should be supported as they have expertise and a role to play in advising about what works well and what doesn't and they have expertise in informing policy and planning

GDA Charter Right 14

Fully accessible and affordable transport: this should demand-led and allow for spontaneity and flexible travel and should also apply to all modes of travel. Concessionary and free travel schemes should be expanded and disability equality training provided to transport staff. Transport information should be accessible and readily available. Access Panels should be supported as in relation to the environment.

8. Rights to reality: what you can do

As an elected politician, public, voluntary or private sector worker, member of the community, family member, personal assistant or friend- what can you do? We need you to respect the human rights of disabled people and commit yourself to effecting change so that human rights compliance is a daily fact not a daily hurdle.

We all have a role to play in delivering this Manifesto: to raise it with candidates as well as understand how we can apply it to our daily lives. Respecting and delivering people's human rights is an obligation and needs to become a priority if we are serious about improving the freedom, dignity, choice and control in the lives of disabled people in Glasgow. Also, by promoting disability as a human rights issue during the election campaign, more people will be aware of their rights and more agencies aware of their responsibilities.

There must also be action to end society's disabling response to disabled people. Instead we need evidence that disabled people are respected and can assert choice and control over their own lives. Disabled people in Glasgow should have a wide range of opportunities to be included as full and equal members of society. For that to happen means change: in attitude, in service delivery, in the culture of public sector agencies, in physical access and across the range of rights we have named and explained.

Please commit to GDA's Manifesto and sign up to our 3 demands. Please work with GDA to take these forward. Get in touch – contact details below!

Glasgow Disability Alliance
Suite 301, The White Studios
Templeton Business Centre
62 Templeton Street
Glasgow G40 1DA

Tel: 0141 556 7103
Fax: 0141 550 4937

Email: tressaburke@gdaonline.co.uk
Website: www.gdaonline.co.uk

9. Useful Contact details

Human Rights organisations

There are two human rights bodies in Scotland: The GB Equality and Human Rights Commission which is funded by the UK Government and the Scottish Human Rights Commission which is funded by the Scottish Parliament. Both exist to improve respect for human rights in Scotland and operate a joint HelpLine

- 0845 604 5510 – Scotland HelpLine
- 0845 604 5520 – Scotland Textphone
- 0845 604 5530 – Scotland Fax

Both organisations can undertake work on The EU's Charter of Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Treaties which the UK has ratified.

The GB Equality & Human Rights Commission has a range of powers that are designed to 'encourage and support' the development of a society in which: *"there is respect for and protection of each individual's human rights, there is respect for the dignity and worth of each individual and there is mutual respect between groups based on understanding and valuing of diversity and on shared respect for equality and human rights."* Equality Act (s3)

The EHRC focuses on reserved human rights issues which may include issues such as welfare benefit discrimination and consumer affairs in Scotland.

www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/

The Scottish Human Rights Commission has a vision for 'a fairer Scotland where social progress is achieved through a rights-based approach and where human dignity, equality and participation are guaranteed for all'. The SHRC works on devolved issues such as housing, education and social care and cannot undertake casework. www.scottishhumanrights.com

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP) promotes and safeguard the rights of children and young people living in Scotland as contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - those under 18 years.

www.sccyp.org.uk