



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Christina McKelvie MSP
Convener

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Dear Dr. Behan

Prisoner voting in Scotland

I am writing to you on behalf of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee of the Scottish Parliament. On Thursday 7 September 2017 the Committee held a public evidence session on the issue of the blanket ban on prisoner voting in Scotland. This session was undertaken at the request of Patrick Harvie MSP, in light of both EU and UK court rulings on the issue of prisoner voting.

During the evidence session, your academic work on this issue as well as your book: *Citizen convicts: Prisoners, politics and the vote*, was referenced a number of times. The Official Report transcript of the oral evidence received at the meeting is now available on the Committee's website for information.¹ The written evidence the Committee received is also available to read.²

¹ Equalities and Human Rights Committee, Official Report of the 19th Meeting 2017: Thursday 7 September 2017: <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11067&mode=pdf>

² Written evidence on prisoner voting: http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Meeting%20Papers/EHRiC_public_papers_20170907.pdf and additional paper on prisoner voting: http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Meeting%20Papers/Submission_from_the_Howard_League_20170907.pdf

Request for views

I would like to invite you to provide your views on the issue of prisoner voting, and on the points raised in the written and oral evidence provided to the Committee. Given your expertise in the field, it would be most helpful to have a written submission from you, expanding on any points you think it may be helpful for the Committee to be aware of. We would request that any such submission be with us by **Monday 16 October 2017**.

Next steps

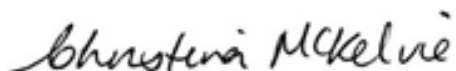
You'll note from the Minutes of the Meeting of 7 September that the Committee undertook to write to others stakeholders seeking their views.³ As soon as we have received all of these views the Committee will consider the responses and decide what further action we should take, or, whether we should make recommendations to the Scottish Government in terms of how to address the issue of prisoner voting in Scotland.

Contact

If you have any questions about this request, or the work of the Committee, please contact the Committee Clerks, in the first instance, at the contact details below.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Christina McKelvie MSP
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Contact

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³ Minutes of the Meeting of 7 September 2017 (Item 4):
http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Minutes/Minutes_20170907.pdf