Present:

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Deputy Convener)  Mary Fee
Alison Harris (Committee Substitute)  Fulton MacGregor
Ruth Maguire (Convener)  Gail Ross
Annie Wells

Apologies were received from Oliver Mundell.

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private**: The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.

2. **Budget Scrutiny 2019-20**: The Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government's Budget 2019-20 from—

   Dr Alison Hosie, Research Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission;

   Dr Angela O'Hagan, Chair of the Scottish Government's Equality and Budget Advisory Group;

   Chris Oswald, Head of Policy, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

3. **Budget Scrutiny 2019-20 (in private)**: The Committee considered the evidence received.

4. **Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill (in private)**: The Committee agreed to launch a 12-week public call for views on the Bill. The Committee also agreed the timetable for consideration of the Bill, and the general approach to inviting witnesses to give oral evidence. Furthermore, it was agreed to seek further information on outreach and engagement on the Bill. Finally, it was agreed to consider any further approach to consideration of the
Bill, consideration of oral evidence received, and any draft reports or letters, in private, at future meetings.

5. **Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered a draft Stage 1 report. Specific amendments were agreed to, and the Committee agreed to consider a revised draft report, in private, at its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.30 am.

Claire Menzies  
Clerk to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee  
Room T2.60  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
Tel: 0131 348 5217  
Email: claire.menzies@parliament.scot