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Karen Adam MSP
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee

By email: ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot

1 July 2025

Dear Convener,

A HUMAN RIGHTS BILL FOR SCOTLAND: DISCUSSION PAPER

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Government has today published a Discussion Paper on proposals for a Human Rights Bill.

The Discussion Paper is the next step in the development of the proposed Bill. It sets out our current policy proposals, consolidating work to date. The paper is intended to support further engagement with stakeholders and those with an interest in the Bill.

Proposals build on the 2023 public consultation and extensive engagement over a number of years with rights-holders, civil society, and public bodies. They reflect the progress made as well as the challenges encountered in developing legislation to incorporate further human rights treaties into Scots law.

The Discussion Paper outlines the rationale behind our current preferred policy approaches, reflecting stakeholder feedback where relevant. At points it also includes alternative options that have been considered but not pursued. It highlights areas where policy development is ongoing and areas we wish to consider further in the coming period.

The Discussion Paper and Easy Read version can be found in the below links:

- A Human Rights Bill for Scotland: Discussion Paper
<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836916031>
- A Human Rights Bill for Scotland: Easy Read version
<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836917601>

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

I will continue to keep the Committee updated on the work I have outlined as it develops and would be happy to engage further.

Yours sincerely,

Kaukab Stewart MSP
Minister for Equalities

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