The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

24 November 2026

Dear Stakeholder

Non-implementation of legislation

I am writing on behalf of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee following its meeting on Thursday 19 November, during which Members discussed the Committee's forthcoming work programme.

As part of this discussion, the Committee reflected on responses from the Scottish Government explaining ongoing delays in the implementation of the following three Acts:

- Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Act 2020
- Domestic Abuse Protection (Scotland) Act 2021
- The Children (Scotland) Act 2020

The Committee's predecessor pursued concerns about delays in implementation of these Acts last session and encouraged its successor committee to continue to do so.

As a stakeholder who was key to providing evidence to the relevant Parliamentary Committee during session 5 for one or more of the Acts' passage through parliament, the predecessor committee wrote to you in 2024 to understand more about the delays and the implications of thereof.

Two years on from that correspondence, these three Acts have still not been implemented and the Committee would welcome any reflections you might have on the ongoing implications of this delay. It would be very helpful to understand the practical implications of the delays in order to enable the Committee to more effectively pursue this issue with the Scottish Government.

Moreover, the Committee would welcome your reflections on the justifications for those delays and the plans for implementation as set out in the correspondence from the Scottish Government to the Committee. Copies of the correspondence can be found below:

- Correspondence from the Scottish Government on the Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Act 2020

Contact: Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

- Correspondence from the Scottish Government on The Children (Scotland) Act 2020
- Correspondence from the Scottish Government on the Domestic Abuse Protection (Scotland) Act 2021

We would be grateful for any responses by Friday 18 December.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerks to the Committee on the email address as noted below.

Yours sincerely

Katie Hagmann MSP
Convener

The Women's Support Project
Scottish Women's Aid
CPC Scotland
Scottish Women's Rights Centre
Police Scotland
Social Work Scotland (Children and Families)
Homeless Network Scotland
Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Children First
Shared Parenting Scotland
Relationships Scotland
Law Society of Scotland

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