



Young People's Rights Review

Adam Paton MSYP - Unfair Access to Shops

My name is Adam Paton MSYP and I am the member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Edinburgh Southern. Over the past few months, I have spoken to 239 Young People in my constituency about their perceptions of their rights.

The issue that came up across the board was the inequality faced by young people in and around shops, especially towards school pupils. Young people now expect to be held outside shops, one constituent told me, and to be followed around by a member of staff or asked to empty their bag before leaving. This young person was far from alone. Of those I spoke to, more than 90% of young people had been held outside of a shop, all of them before, during or after the school day. Everyone asked agreed that it is normal for school pupils to be held outside local shops at breaktimes whilst other members of the public could skip any queue and simply enter. It is also in my constituency that Tesco's have been caught on multiple occasions forcing state school pupils to queue outside whilst public school pupils and adults could simply enter the store.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which I, alongside the Scottish Youth Parliament, would like to see adopted into Scots Law, states in Article 2 that children and young people should not be discriminated against for any reason and Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights does not permit disproportionate age discrimination, whether direct or indirect.

I welcome the draft Children and Young People's Rights Action Plan, especially the action title 'Measures to promote play', which will help young people get outdoors and socialise more in our communities. However, action to prevent this unfair and unlawful practise is missing under the 'Education, Leisure and Cultural Activity' heading. How can we be more involved in our communities while simultaneously being excluded from them? Please note the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendation from their 2016 review of the UK in paragraph 23: 'that the Committee recalls its previous recommendation that the State party take urgent measures to address the "intolerance of childhood" and general negative public attitude towards children, especially adolescents, within society, including in the media.'

The fact that shops can hold groups of children outside is backwards thinking and unacceptable for a leading nation such as Scotland. It is not proportionate; it is indiscriminate to all young people; and it perpetuates negative prejudicial perceptions of young people in Scotland. As such, **I believe that the Children and Young People's Rights Action Plan must contain a specific provision to prohibit disproportionate discrimination of young people from entering shops.**