



Young People's Rights Review

Bailey-Lee Robb MSYP - Punishment in Schools

My name is Bailey-Lee Robb MSYP from Fife Council, representing the Cowdenbeath Constituency. I have consulted with over 350 young people through my regular youth surgeries and youth engagement sessions. A rights issue which has been regularly raised with me is that young people do not have a say, or the right to appeal, when it comes to punishments in schools. From detentions to referrals to punishment exercises - the young people have no say in the punishment procedure and are being denied the chance to appeal the unfair punishment that they have received.

Article 12 states that children and young people have the right to have their views heard and for those to be taken seriously, and furthermore Section 2 of this Article states that young people should have the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child.

The young people that I consulted told me, that our young people are being punished, sometimes for things that are out with their control. This leads to the young person being handed a detention, punishment exercise or a referral up the chain of command, young people then do not have a say in this process and this is having a profound effect on both pupil's learning and their mental health.

I believe that there is a lack of opportunities for students in both Fife and in Scotland to appeal punishments and that this is an example of Article 12 not being upheld. Therefore, I welcome the Government's Plan to Strengthen learner's participation in schools, and on their work to close the poverty-related attainment gap.

However, **I further recommend that both government, and local authorities, urgently investigate and implement a plan on how students have their voice heard in the punishment procedure, and how we can further support pupils in the appeal process.**

To sum up in 2018, it is deeply concerning that students are not aware of their right to be heard through the punishment procedure in Scottish schools, and that there is no real opportunity for those young people to be heard on this issue. I do hope that the government and local authorities address this issue, to strengthen Article 12.

Thank you.