



Young People's Rights Review

Chloe Carmichael MSYP - Feminine Hygiene Products

My name is Chloe Carmichael MSYP for East Kilbride and I have consulted with around 726 young people through school assemblies, youth clubs, youth surgeries and online surveys. A rights issue that was raised a lot during my rights review consultation was from mostly young people who identify as female, including high school girls, around access to and stigma around menstrual hygiene products. This is a real issue for many young people I spoke to as they told me they don't even know where to access them from. Period poverty is a violation of human rights, such as the rights to health, education, play and non-discrimination, which can particularly affect young people who menstruate.

While some felt that they knew where and when to access them, a majority didn't. They felt that even if they did know, most of them would be too embarrassed to ask for anything. The best examples were from local schools who have started to provide these sanitary products for free in the toilets. However, many constituents reported that some schools do not provide any sanitary products at all. Therefore, I welcome the Scottish Government's action in its draft plan, paragraph 6.19, to 'establish a scheme to fund access to free sanitary products in schools, colleges, etc.'

However, **I further call on the Scottish Government to ensure the rights of young people who menstruate are properly protected by binding, not guiding, legislation - by planning to support Monica Lennon MSP's upcoming private members bill and campaign to end Period Poverty.** This can ensure that schools, colleges and universities are duty bound to provide universal access to these essential products so that we can continue our education without any interruptions.

To sum up, in 2018, it is disgusting and inhumane that girls are still having to use toilet paper instead menstrual hygiene products. This legislation would mean Scotland would be a world-leader in giving all citizens the right to access sanitary products. This issue should not be ignored. It is unhealthy and unsafe.