



# Young People's Rights Review

## Jack Brady MSYP - Bullying

Bullying. We all know what it is, and we all know how damaging it can be on individuals and on society as a whole as bullying affects us all.

My name is Jack Brady and I am the MSYP from Dundee City West. I managed to consult 50 people through online surveying and face to face conversations.

Bullying isn't a problem that makes headlines everyday, but everyday it touches the lives of people across the country.

Statistically 3 in 4 of everyone here will be bullied at some point in life. Whether it be in the classroom, in the workplace or in local communities – bullying can happen everywhere and to anyone. I know I have been bullied, and I know I'm definitely not the only one.

Throughout my consultation, I found that 75% of those who replied have been bullied. That is staggering. And what is even more heartbreaking is that NSPCC reports 16,000 pupils are absent from school due to bullying across the UK each year.

Furthermore, the damaging affects of bullying usually cause long term impacts, may that be mental health implications, or simply even not knowing your own self-worth. We all have the attributes to be the person we want to be but, if we don't believe in ourselves then we never will reach our full potential potential.

That truly breaks my heart.

I am very glad that the Government has recognised the severity of this issue and proud of the mass levels of support there is now for tackling bullying.

For example, I think *RespectMe's* work has really helped raise awareness of this issue in recent years. I also welcome the points to Support the delivery of the refreshed National Approach to Anti-Bullying, and to update the toolkit for dealing with homophobia and homophobic bullying in schools.

However, from those I have consulted 73.33% of those say that there wasn't any services that were able to help them.

The work so far is definitely a step in the right direction. However, there is still more to do.

**For example, I believe that the principles that *Respect for All* promotes, such as respect and tolerance, should be embedded in human rights education and training not just for children and young people, but also for adults and other duty-bearers, to ensure bullying is tackled throughout life more holistically.**

**I therefore recommend that the Scottish Government implement the phases addressing stakeholders of all ages in the World Programme for Human Rights Education and Training.**

We in Scotland believe that our country is the best place to grow up in the world, but until every young person has the right to be safe, heard and healthy and free from discrimination from the outset, this wont be completely true.