



Young People's Rights Review

Sanna Aziz MSYP - Education

My name is Sanna Aziz MSYP from the Scottish Borders, more specifically Midlothian south, Tweeddale and Lauderdale. In reaching out decision on which rights issue we discussed today, over 800 young people have been consulted through schools, youth voice groups, third sector partners, and through online surveys.

The rights issue that stood out most was education. A number of young people talked about how a shortage of teachers in certain subjects was making it difficult for them to learn the things they wanted to learn. A young girl talked about how she had wanted to be a chef when she left school, but the shortage of home economic teachers meant that she wasn't able to study the subject so she had to change her career plans.

In the Government's paper - *Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education (2016)* - the Government states that its ultimate goal of education is that "*each and every child develops a broad range of skills and attributes and gains the qualifications to have choices and be successful in life*", but rural areas often lack teachers in certain subjects which restrict the subjects that can be offered. Students travelling to a neighbouring school for certain subjects pose many difficulties. Although neighbouring schools may offer certain subjects, they can be over 20 miles away.

I commend that the Scottish Government commit to supporting schools to access the right number of teachers with the right skills, in 7.1 of the draft plan. But **I further recommend that the Government add an action to ensure rural areas are not discriminated against and local authority funding is maintained to ensure a variety of subjects that they need; look at alternative ways to deliver education through interactive technology; and ensure that all young people have the skills and knowledge that they need to be successful in life, in the career that they wish to pursue, as they promised in their *Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education* paper.**

To sum up, every child in Scotland deserves a good start in life and a good education is key to that. Young people should not be discriminated against based on where they were born or their social status. Article 28 of the UNCRC states that every child has the right to an education, and the Scottish Government has said that this education should be excellent. We need to make sure that happens for every child in Scotland.