



Young People's Rights Review

Jack Norquoy MSYP - Brexit

So everyone my name's Jack Norquoy, I am a MSYP for Orkney, as you can see beautiful Orkney behind me, and I am also a Trustee for the Scottish Youth Parliament, and I am really sorry I can't be at the Rights Review today, but I hope you're having a great day so far, and for the MSYP's that are there, it'll come as no surprise to them that I'm going to be speaking a bit about Brexit during this video.

Now at SYP, we understand that young people's rights could be at serious risk because of Brexit. As part of our campaign we have been actively calling on decision-makers to action to shield against any negative impact caused by Brexit to young people's rights.

Now let me be absolutely clear, Brexit risks weakening the existing human rights protection and frameworks we have here in Scotland and across the UK, any potential loss of protections and continued negative rhetoric around the promotion of rights risks Scotland's world leading example.

We cannot allow a digression on rights, we must see a progression, and I was delighted that back in January at SYP we launched [SYP's Brexit Manifesto: Rights Outright](#) just in time for the Withdrawal Bill passing through the Lords. This manifesto has been developed as part of *Right Here, Right Now*; and was decided by hundreds of young people during our consultation process back in December 2017.

The 5 statements in our manifesto have been identified as priorities and calls to action for Scottish and UK decision makers; and our calls to action are:

- 1) **Upholding workplace rights** - the rights of young people in the workplace need to be prioritised and respected.
- 2) **Participation** - young people must not be continued to be locked out of the rest of this process if we are to respect Article 12 of the UNCRC; we should have a far more official, meaningful representative voice at the table moving forward.
- 3) **Equalities and rights protection** - as we face the risk, it is important to acknowledge those, it's also important that we recognise the opportunities we have, and one massive opportunity that we have today is incorporation of the UNCRC which could provide the opportunity to strengthen rights here in Scotland. Any further devolution as a result of Brexit will make incorporation even more relevant.
- 4) **The right to remain** - we need that concrete assurance that EU nationals already contributing towards society have the right to remain, this is especially concerning as we see the rights of cross border families at risk.

5) **And finally the right to health** - we are calling on the UK Government to undertake an independent evaluation with wide consultation on the impact of the health and social care sectors, and I was delighted to make this case to key decision-makers and stakeholders in the Brexit process down in Westminster back in February and those included Hilary Ben, David Mundell, Lord Jay and many other MPs and Lords.

In closing, young people in Scotland must be engaged in the process of understanding what their rights are, how they can be protected, and what more can be done to protect their rights. Any significant change in the protection of right must be based on this meaningful engagement. We can take action, moving forward today to protect our rights here in Scotland.

Incorporation is a way of ensuring that rights can be protected when laws and policies are made here in Scotland and that will have that protective effect we need to shield ourselves against any negative regression as a result of Brexit.

Let Scotland as the free, fair and compassionate society we are show example to the world that we will lead on rights by protection and by binding all of our rights through incorporation. Thank you very much and I hope you have a great day.