

SCLD Lived Experience Board and Scottish Government Bill Team



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Welcome Bill Team!

Thank you for meeting with us today, we appreciate your time.

We would like to give you our thoughts on the Human Rights Bill for Scotland Consultation.

We would like to hear yours too.

We also have a few questions for you.



We might not have met before so we would like to introduce ourselves.

Unfortunately, not everyone from the Lived Experience Board was able to come today.

We are a group of people with learning disabilities who are also human rights defenders.

We all have really valuable lived experience of life with a learning disability.

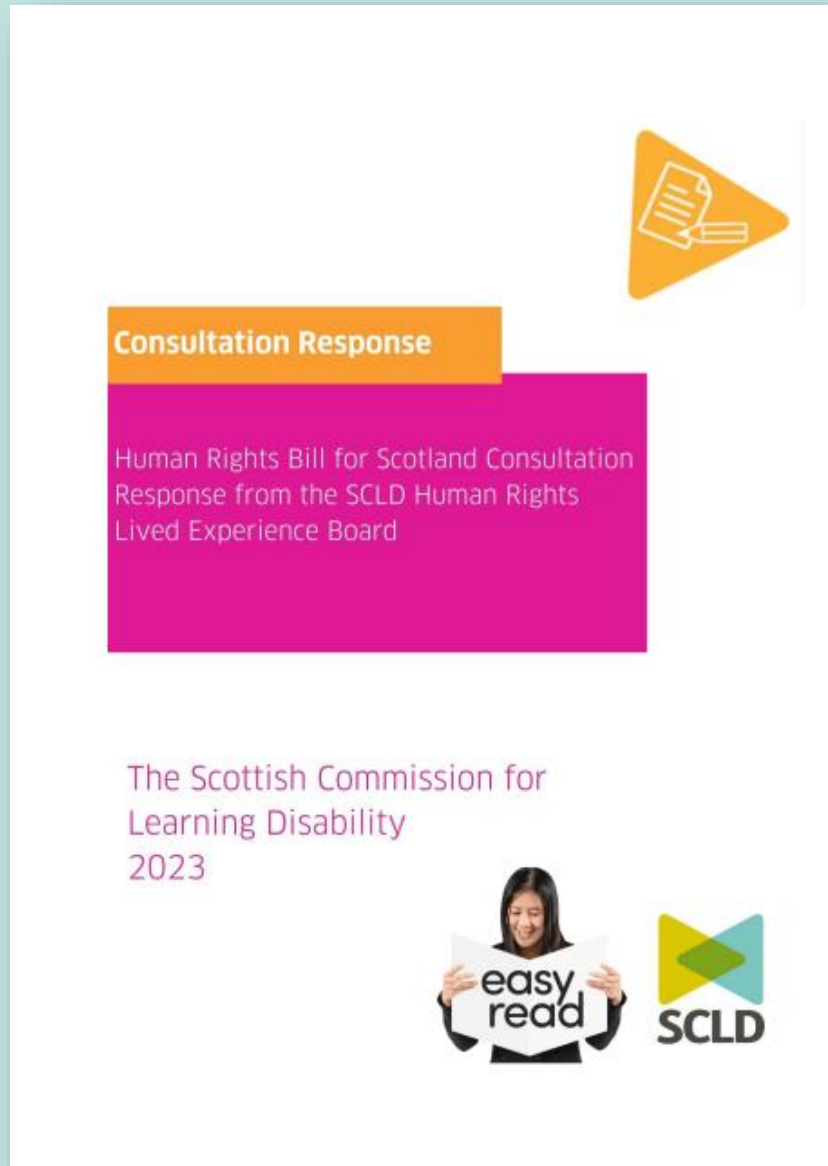
We are here to share our knowledge with you and to help the Scottish Government make a Human Rights Bill that protects the human rights of people with learning disabilities.

We also want to learn about how the Scottish Government make policy and law decisions. We are really passionate about people with learning disabilities being involved in decision making.



We would love to hear about you and what you do.

Leeanne



In September we submitted our Consultation Response.

To write this response we spent a lot of time reading and understanding the Consultation.

We then shared this knowledge with other groups and used their opinions and ours to write this response.

We would like to present some of the main points from this response to you now.



Lindsay



The UNCRPD says that people with a learning disability have equal rights to everyone else.

But many people say this doesn't always happen in real life and lots of people with learning disabilities still do not get all of their human rights.

This means they cannot live lives that are free from inequality and discrimination



Leeane



So it is really important that the new Human Rights Bill for Scotland can make things better for people with learning disabilities.

We need you to push for the changes needed to make this happen.



Lindsay

Questions



1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

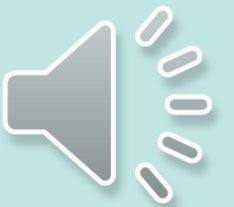
Not sure



The Human Rights Bill for Scotland Consultation has lots of questions.

The Lived Experience Board chose to answer 2 questions that they think are very important to the lives of people with learning disabilities.

These are Question 4 and Question 5 in the Consultation.



John C



Question 4 :

What are your views on the proposed model of incorporation?

This question is asking what people think about the way the Scottish Government want to include the rights in the UNCRPD.

This is important because the UNCRPD says people with learning disabilities must be treated equally and have the same human rights as everyone else.

So it is important that these rights are strong in the law.



John C



What do you think?
Do you think the idea is a good one?

Yes

Not sure

No

Our Response to Question 4

The Board does not agree with the way the Scottish Government want to include the UNCRPD in the Human Rights Bill for Scotland.

Because we do not think it will be strong enough in the law.



The Board does not think the Human Rights Bill for Scotland can support everyone equally if the UNCRPD is not strong enough in the law.

We do not think that people with learning disabilities will get dignity if their human rights are not properly supported in the law.



Sandy

Question 5:

Are there any rights in the equality treaties which you think should be treated differently?

This question is asking if people think any of the human rights in the Bill should be treated differently from the others.

This is important because the human rights of people with learning disabilities are just as important as everyone else's.

So it is important that these rights are equal in the law.



Sandy



Our Response to Question 5

The Board believes that all rights in all the treaties should have equal strength in the law

This would mean that everyone would be equally treated and supported by the law

If the UNCRPD had equal strength in the law duty bearers would have to follow the law and protect the rights of people with learning disabilities

The Board think that people with learning disabilities still don't always get their human rights

They don't think this will change unless the Human Rights Bill for Scotland equally supports the rights in the UNCRPD



Sandy



We would love to get your thoughts and opinions on the points we have just made.



Fiona



The Lived Experience Board spent a lot of time investigating and understanding what the consultation said.

There are three things in the Consultation that the Board are worried about.

Fiona

1. Dignity

The Consultation talks about using the idea of dignity to understand human rights and similar rights in the law.

The Board think this might mean that the idea of dignity will be used to make legal decisions that impact peoples quality of life.

The Board think that although dignity is very important this is worrying because people have different ideas about what dignity is.

This means that someone could make a decision about your life that you don't agree with.

What is the solution?

We think that people with learning disabilities should be involved in making the definition of dignity.

2. How strong the UNCRPD is in the law

The Consultation talks about how strong some human rights will be in the law.

The Board looked at what the Consultation said about how strong the human rights in the UNCRPD would be in the new Bill.

We do not think the UNCRPD is as strong as other human rights treaties.

This is because the rights in the UNCRPD are not strong enough and people will not be forced to follow them.

What is the solution?

Give all treaties the same strength in the law.

3. Lived Experience Board Recommendations

In 2022 the Lived Experience Board gave the Scottish Government recommendations on what to put in the Human Rights Bill for Scotland.

The Board think these recommendations are very important to making sure the Bill supports the human rights of people with learning disabilities.

We do not think that these recommendations have been properly included in the Consultation.

We feel that this means that the Scottish Government are not serious enough about supporting the human rights of people with learning disabilities.

What is the solution?

Include our recommendations in Human Rights Bill for Scotland.

Aaron

The Lived Experience Board would like to thank the Scottish Government for the opportunity to respond to the Human Rights Bill for Scotland Consultation

And for being a part of the Human Rights Bill process

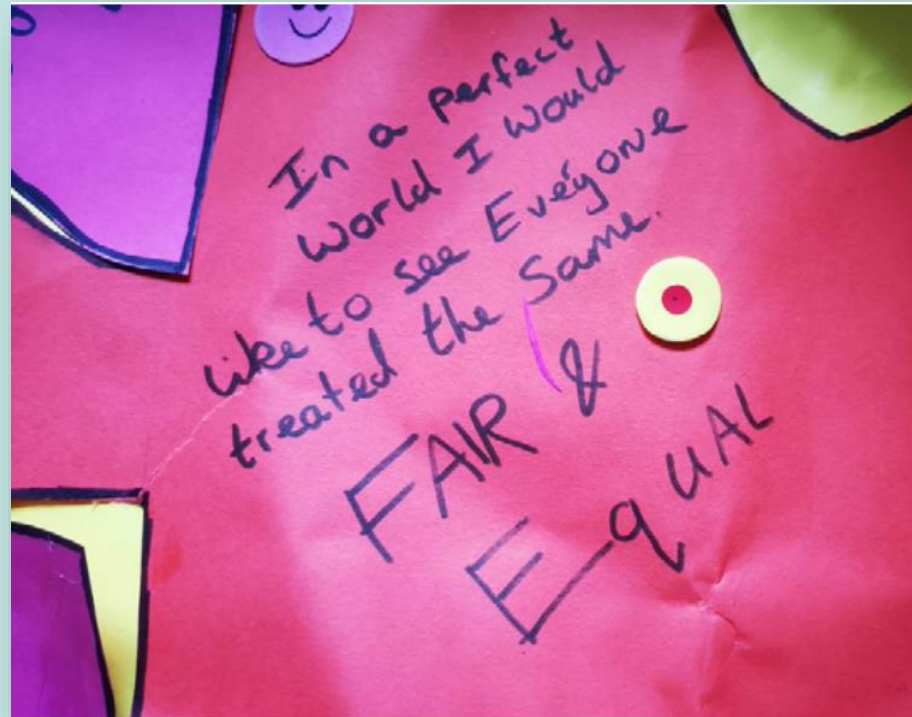


Aaron

It is essential that people with lived experience are involved in making decisions that will impact the lives of people with learning disabilities.

We can learn so much from each other.

After all, people with learning disabilities are the experts on what is best for their own lives.



Aaron

We have 3 questions for you today.

We would like you to take these questions away and come back to us with your thoughts.

- 1. Why are the recommendations from the Lived Experience Board not included in Human Rights Bill?**
- 2. How could the Lived Experience Board be involved in the rest of the Bill process?**
- 3. Will you reconsider the method of incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?**

