

Unite Scotland wishes to submit an endorsement of the Joint Submission made to the Commission on Parliamentary Reform from the Glasgow Council for the voluntary Sector (GCVS), Scottish Council on Deafness (SCOD) and Voluntary Action Scotland (VAS).

Unite also supports their recommendations:

1. Human rights should achieve far greater prominence across the business of committees in the Scottish Parliament and in the work of the SPCB.
2. More information and detail is needed on the human rights implications of proposed laws and policies. The current brief statements in the Policy Memorandum which accompanies Bills are inadequate to generate informed debate amongst the public and politicians. The Policy Memorandum provided by the Parliament should provide much more detail about implementing minimum international standards so that journalists, NGOs, MSPs, Committee clerks and those drafting amendments for MSPs have a greater understanding of and can participate more effectively in informed debate about the duties on public authorities and the human rights of people.
3. The Scottish Parliament should explicitly introduce the UNGPs into its public procurement strategy. In addition, there needs to be a system of public accountability in its procurement framework to ensure that the rights of workers, the rights of service users and the needs of communities are respected, protected and fulfilled.
4. Across its business, each Committee should require the purchasing power of public procurement to be used to ensure that the rights of workers, the rights of service users and the needs of communities are respected, protected and fulfilled eg as a matter of procedure, require those public sector bodies who give evidence to provide a statement of account on how its public procurement processes are 'rights respecting' in impact. This would fulfil the UNGPs. It is understood this would be a more ambitious process than the reporting required under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.
5. The SPCB should be an explicit delivery agent for Scotland's National Action Plan on Human Rights (SNAP) and consequently inspire action from other Scottish public authorities, as well as adopt Scotland's Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP) when it is agreed.
6. The lived experience of people we work with has been conveyed to Parliament since 1999, and the process has raised expectations about impact and results. Given that there has been 18 years of legislation it is now timely to review how laws and policies are working, identify any unintended consequences and to monitor rollout.

Unite the Union Scotland