



Assemblée générale

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Conseil des droits de l'homme

Vingt-cinquième session

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour

**Promotion et protection de tous les droits de l'homme,
civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels,
y compris le droit au développement**

Informations communiquées par la Commission écossaise des droits de l'homme*

Note du secrétariat

Le secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme fait tenir ci-joint la communication soumise par la Commission écossaise des droits de l'homme**, reproduite ci-après conformément à l'article 7 b) du Règlement intérieur figurant dans l'annexe de la résolution 5/1 du Conseil des droits de l'homme, qui dispose que la participation des institutions nationales des droits de l'homme s'exerce selon les modalités et les pratiques convenues par la Commission des droits de l'homme, notamment la résolution 2005/74 du 20 avril 2005.

* Institution nationale des droits de l'homme à laquelle le Comité international de coordination des institutions nationales pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme a accordé le statut d'accréditation «A».

** La communication est reproduite en annexe telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale seulement.



Annexe

[*Anglais seulement*]

Information presented by the Scottish Human Rights Commission on the Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child (HRC res. 22/32)

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

The Scottish Human Rights Commission welcomes this discussion. Following our four year research project into the human rights situation in Scotland, we identified enhancing respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights to achieve justice and safety for all as one of our key priorities.

Scotland has a unique system for addressing the needs of children who commit offences through its welfare based children's hearing system, placing the best interest of the child at the centre of decision making and also giving life to the right to respect for the views of the child. However, we also have one of the lowest ages of criminal responsibility in the world at just eight years. Early intervention to prevent offending should be increased, as should alternatives to detention for children.

Children still face barriers in terms of accessing legal advice, including costs and choice of representation. The impact of austerity measures, in particular welfare reform and legal aid cuts are disproportionately affecting children.

More must be done to protect children in Scotland from violence, including repealing the defence of "justifiable assault", enhancing parenting support and improving child protection measures.

We hope that Scotland will address these issues through Scotland's first National Action Plan for Human Rights which was launched on 10 December 2013. We look forward to assessing how much progress has been made at the UK's UPR mid-term report later this year.
