



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
RUTH MAGUIRE MSP  
CONVENER**

John Griffiths AM  
Chair  
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[Via email only](#)

28 January 2018

Dear John Griffiths AM,

**Getting Rights Right - Inquiry into Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament**

Last year the Equalities and Human Rights Committee held an inquiry into human rights within the Scottish Parliament. This inquiry fulfils recommendation 30 of the independent Commission on Parliamentary Reform's [Report](#), which asked the Committee to investigate how the Scottish Parliament's role as a human rights guarantor could be strengthened.

Our [Report](#) sets out a road map for human rights in the Scottish Parliament. It addresses how the Committee will approach the subject of human rights within its remit and identifies further areas for inquiry. We have asked for Standing Orders to be amended to make human rights a mandatory subject matter.

The Committee also makes a number of recommendations directed at the Scottish Parliament, its Parliamentary Committees, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Human Rights Commission as you'll see from our Summary of Recommendations.

I also draw to your attention the [Report](#) of the First Minister's independent Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership, published 10 December, which recommends an Act of the Scottish Parliament to provide a framework for

human rights. This Bill is anticipated to be introduced in the next session of the Parliament.

The Committee also held an event “Human Rights Take Over!”, which launched the Committee’s Report in December 2018. I’ve included a [link](#) to the video of the event where you can listen to the speeches and panel session, which set out progress in Scotland and current human rights concerns.

We believe implementing the recommendations in our Report will put the Scottish Parliament at the forefront of international best practice on human rights.

I’d be happy to discuss any of the recommendations set out in our Report in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Maguire". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ruth Maguire MSP  
Convener  
Equalities and Human Rights Committee