

The logo for Human Rights Consortium Scotland is a blue square with a white border and a white corner tab at the bottom right. The text 'Human Rights Consortium Scotland' is written in bold black font inside the square.

Human Rights Consortium Scotland

**Statement to the United Nations Human
Rights Council**

20th September 2012

**Delivered by Carole Ewart, HRCS
Chairperson**

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The HRCS welcomes the opportunity to speak to the Human Rights Council in respect of the UPR recommendations on the UK.

The HRCS welcomes the statement of the UK Government on the value and potential of the UPR process. We look forward to the working with the UK and Scottish Governments in giving effect to the UPR recommendations. We particularly welcome the decision by the Scottish Government to address our meeting next week to outline next steps on the UPR process.

We ask the HRC to remember Scotland in its deliberations and recommendations. We work differently in Scotland. Historically we have a distinctive legal and education system and more recently our Scottish Parliament has been reconvened (it was suspended in 1707). We have the potential to develop a distinctive vision on human rights.

There is also a problem about the unequal enjoyment of human rights within Scotland compared to the rest of the UK. Importantly the Scottish Parliament has no dedicated Committee to consider human rights unlike the UK Parliament which has a Joint Committee on Human Rights. The Scottish Parliament has delegated authority on key human rights issues such as housing, criminal justice and education. The Scottish Human Rights Commission, unlike the GB EHRC, is specifically prohibited from undertaking casework.

There is a need to protect specific groups whose human rights are under threat at this time due to the UK Government's welfare benefit cuts such as disabled people.

We thank you for your attention.

For further information contact:

Human Rights Consortium Scotland

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