

The Socialist Educational Association Scotland is the educational affiliate of the Scottish Party.

On 31st August the United Nations published a report critical of the UK and devolved governments in respect of the treatment of disabled people and also disabled children's rights to inclusive education. They described their overall view of "deep concerns" and "grave and systematic violations of disabled people's human rights". The UN's UK Rapporteur described the engagement as "the most challenging exercise in the history of the committee".

The UN Committee raised four areas of concern with the UK and devolved governments in respect of inclusive education and made several recommendations some of which were covered by the Education and Skills Committee in its recent report. The UN were asking the devolved government to provide "a coherent and adequately financed strategy" to increase and improve inclusive education. A view that I'm sure would be shared by the Committee and the participants to the report.

Can the Cabinet Secretary be asked what response Scottish government has to the UN's recommendation that they should act

"in line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.B of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Develop a comprehensive and coordinated legislative and policy framework for inclusive education and a timeframe to ensure that mainstream schools foster real inclusion of children with disabilities in the school environment and that teachers and all other professionals and persons in contact with children understand the concept of inclusion and are able to enhance inclusive education

(b) Strengthen measures to monitor school practices concerning enrolment of children with disabilities and offer appropriate remedies in cases of disability - related discrimination and/or harassment, including deciding upon schemes for compensation;

(c) Adopt and implement a coherent and adequately financed strategy, with concrete timelines and measurable goals, on increasing and improving inclusive education.

The strategy must:

(i) Ensure the implementation of laws, decrees and regulations on improving the extent and quality of inclusive education in classrooms, support provisions and teacher training, including pedagogical capabilities, across all levels providing for high - quality inclusive environments, including within breaks between lessons and through socialization outside " education time":

(ii) Set up awareness - raising and support initiatives about inclusive education among parents of children with disabilities;

(iii) Provide sufficient, relevant data on the number of students both in inclusive and segregated education, disaggregated by impairment, age, sex and ethnic background, and on the outcome of the education, reflecting the capabilities of the students."

The Concluding observations of the UNCRPD can be found at this weblink

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=C
RPD%2fC%2fGBR%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=C
RPD%2fC%2fGBR%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en)

While the General Comment no. 4 mentioned in the recommendation is at this link
[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=C
RPD/C/GC/4&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=C
RPD/C/GC/4&Lang=en)

Trust this is helpful; please get back to me for any further information.

Thanks
David Watt
Secretary