**First Minister’s Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership,**

**Reference Group Meeting**

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

The Melting Pot, Rose Street, Edinburgh. 13:00 – 16:30

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|  |  | **Actions** |
| 1. | **Welcome and updates.**The Chair welcomed all to the final Reference Group meeting and thanked everyone for their continued support in helping to shape the recommendations within the final report. Ahead of the proceedings, the Chair outlined the proposed Agenda, with particular focus being given to the presentation of the potential key recommendations to be included within the report. This would be followed by group discussions on the key recommendations and the crucial role civil society would play in implementing these proposed recommendations. The Chair updated the Reference Group by advising that the Advisory Group members had recently met on the 27th and 28th September 2018 to discuss the proposed structure and wording of the final report.  |  |
| 2. | **Presentation of potential Key Recommendations.** Aided by a PowerPoint presentation, the Chair noted that the Advisory Group would be considering 7 possible key recommendations that would be incorporated within the final report. Using the slides as a backdrop, each central feature within the recommendation were explained in detail by the Chair. The 7 key recommendations for consideration were as follows:- 1. An Act of the Scottish Parliament to provide leadership and a new framework of human rights to improve people’s lives.
2. A public participatory process as part of preparation of the Act
3. A participatory process of capacity-building to enable effective implementation of the Act
4. A National (Scottish Government) Mechanism for Monitoring, Reporting and Implementation
5. Development of human rights-based indicators for Scotland’s National Performance Framework
6. A National Task Force, as part of Scotland’s National Action Plan for Human Rights, to take forward recommendations
7. A Bill of Rights, as part of a written constitution, were Scotland to become independent.

Reference Group members were invited to take part in a question and answer session following the presentation.  |  |
| 3. | **Group discussions on key recommendations.**Mhairi Snowden (Human Rights Consortium Scotland) facilitated group discussion work, based on the 7 key recommendations. Each group was asked to Imagine that it is 2028 and that the rights act has been passed in the Scottish Parliament,  the sunrise clause has risen, and the acts implementation is hailed as a success by human rights defenders across civil society.1. What (realistically in 10 years) does this success look like? What does ‘good’ look like?
2. Looking back, what were the biggest concerns about the Act and its implementation from civil society, politicians and others?
3. What did these organisations do that was crucial in the lead up to the Act and its implementation?
	1. Scottish Government
	2. Local Authorities
	3. Inspection Bodies
	4. SHRC
4. What other law, policy or practical changes were important in enabling the incorporation of UN rights to make human rights real in people’s lives?
5. Bonus question – What should be the key characteristics & ways of working, of the proposed National (Scottish Government) mechanism for monitoring, reporting and implementation.

Reference Group members were then asked to consider the following questions and discuss what further action would be required to implement the recommendations:- Discussion B1. Given all that has been discussed, what actions can civil society take to ensure that incorporation of UN rights is a success? – Research evidence? Collaborations? Information? Events? Participation networks? Contacts? Others?
2. In your area of work, are there particular developments coming up in the next 2 years that this could link to or the proposed Task Force would need to be aware of?
3. Bonus question – What actions might your organisation or a network you are involved in, consider or be part of?
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