

# Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

5th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Tuesday 21 February 2023

## Scottish Youth Parliament – Equalities and Human Rights Committee

### Introduction

1. At its Business Planning Day in September 2022 the Committee held an informal session with Ramiza Ahmad MSYP and Zainab Adeleye MSYP, the Convener and Deputy Convener respectively of the Scottish Youth Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights (EQU) Committee.
2. Ramiza and Zainab will attend this meeting remotely to update the Committee on progress on some of the areas discussed at the Business Planning Day.

### The Equalities and Human Rights Committee at the Scottish Youth Parliament

3. The Committee's remit covers human rights (including the UNCRC), accessibility, issues related to disability, gender, race, sexuality and any other issues which arise as a result of barriers to access or discrimination.
4. For 2022-23 the committee is focusing on increasing cultural and heritage awareness as well as improving the provision of English for Speakers of Another Languages (ESOL) classes.
5. The EQU Committee wants to draw focus towards South Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month as two often overlooked and under-represented cultures in Scotland. It would like to see more representation, awareness and understanding of these heritage months to educate others and reduce any negative stigmas associated to the cultures generally.
6. The EQU Committee recently submitted a motion on increased and personalised ESOL support:

“The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that decision makers should take further steps to ensure students who do not speak English as their primary language have their right to education upheld through ensuring there are quality ‘English for Speakers of Another Language’ (ESOL) classes made

available in every school and college across Scotland, as well as increased training for educators to help them better include these students.”

7. The EQU Committee also has a close interest in the Right to Food campaign and incorporation of the UNCRC.
8. This session will be an opportunity for the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee to hear from Ramiza and Zainab about what actions and progress they have been making on these issues.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**February 2023**