**The Scottish Human Rights Commission**

**Text of statement to 28th Meeting of UN Human Rights Council**

Full Day Session on Rights of Child, 12 March 2015

“The Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) welcomes this discussion and the High Commissioner’s report. In developing this statement SHRC worked closely with Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People who endorses the statement.

In 2014 the Scottish Parliament passed the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act. SHRC, along with Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People, and civil society organisations had called for the Act to:

* fully incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
* require the use of human rights impact assessments, including child rights impact assessments and child rights-based budgeting; and
* to provide adequate funding for education and awareness raising.

While duties on Ministers and public authorities to consider the UNCRC in decision making were included, along with requirements for a report to the Scottish Parliament every three years on implementation, the Act does not incorporate UNCRC nor does it require impact assessment or child rights-based budgeting.

SHRC welcomes additional duties on Ministers to promote public awareness and understanding of the rights of children, but is concerned that no additional funding has been provided for this purpose.

SHRC notes the 2008 concluding observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child which expressed concern that the budget in the UK relating to children was not sufficient to eradicate poverty and tackle inequalities. The Committee highlighted the lack of consistent budgetary analysis and child rights impact assessment.

As SHRC has commented in other statements to the Council, the impact of austerity measures, in particular welfare reform and legal aid cuts are disproportionately affecting children.

SHRC will continue working with the Scottish Government and civil society organisations to address these issues amongst others through Scotland’s National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP), and looks forward to continued cooperation with the Council and other UN bodies.”