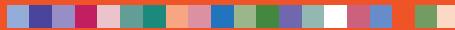


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20



CHARITIES, SCOTLAND & HOLYROOD:
TWENTY YEARS DELIVERING CHANGE



Scotland's voluntary sector has long played an important role in our society. But, since the re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament 20 years ago, new avenues have opened up that allow Scotland's charities to work in close partnership with elected members and government to develop and champion legislation that has ultimately transformed our society for the better.

The impact of this change on individuals and our communities cannot be underestimated. From the smoking ban to ensuring equal marriage for all, civil society has led the charge in changing attitudes and legislation – often in the teeth of strong opposition from vested interests and those in power.

In virtually every challenge our country faces, the voluntary sector has a vital part to play. Looking back on the last two decades, we can now reflect on the benefits of that action and appreciate the determination and drive of those working in the sector and the unquestionable role they have played in creating a more equal and progressive Scotland.

This book gives us a chance to celebrate the last 20 years of the sector working with – while also being prepared to challenge, debate, persuade and influence – our Scottish Parliament.

Scotland has the benefit of being a small country with a strong sense of social justice and a history of innovation. From these strong foundations, we can maintain and cultivate these enviable attributes – working collectively to support each other and to respect each other's right to be heard.

Partnership is a key theme emanating from the 20 campaigns highlighted in this book. By working together we see that collective strength and identification of common purpose can be harnessed to create change.

Through scandals at home and abroad and at a time when the trust built up in our politics has eroded, the term 'lobbying' has developed negative connotations, and new rules have been introduced to ensure contact with elected members remains above board. However, it must always be remembered that voluntary sector lobbying has played a crucial role in delivering the societal change we now celebrate.

Through this publication, we hope to champion and celebrate the amazing work that the voluntary sector carries out in Scotland. The 20 campaigns featured in this book – drawn from a list that could have filled volumes – demonstrate the variety, drive and talent that exists within our vibrant and eclectic sector.

It is crucial that charities continue to work constructively with the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government and MSPs of all parties to ensure that the communities that we are there to support are not forgotten. By progressing in this spirit, together, we know that, 20 years from now, we will be able to reflect on even more positive change led by a vibrant voluntary sector in Scotland.

Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive,
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)



The Scottish Parliament was founded on the principles of openness and equality and having served as a member across those two decades I know that these principles continue to inspire and challenge us today.

Back in 1999 we had the opportunity to build a modern, accessible Scottish Parliament, with the people that it serves at its heart. From the outset, the new parliament opened its doors to civic Scotland and that relationship has flourished over those 20 years to the benefit of all. Just as the parliament has grown and developed as an institution so, for example, we have seen the phenomenal growth of the social enterprise sector. Indeed, Scotland is now recognised as a world-leader in this field and part of a growing global movement.

The third sector embraced the establishment of the parliament and was influential in shaping the institution in the late 1990s and, since then, voluntary organisations have provided invaluable input and a unique perspective on policy development. There is no doubt that the creation of the Scottish Parliament has in turn made it easier for the third sector to access policy makers, politicians and civil servants. From briefing MSPs in advance of debates to providing evidence to our committees; contributing to cross-party groups or making contributions to legislation; the voluntary sector has helped shape the political agenda and provided insight born of experience on the issues that really matter.

I know only too well from my own time as a backbencher how influential the parliament's relationship with third sector organisations has been. From UK-wide charities to local tenants' and residents' groups, anti-poverty campaigners to environmental activists, the sector has spoken up for thousands of people across Scotland and amplified their voice. It has done so with passion but also with reasoned analysis.

In the last year alone, 1.3 million adults formally volunteered through an organisation or group, bringing so much in the way of social and community benefit, but also helping volunteers themselves gain confidence, learn new skills or simply meet others who care. The sector employs more than 105,000 people, that is over three per cent of the total Scottish workforce, and there is no doubt that MSPs have engaged with the sector because of its fundamental importance to Scotland.

This book is a celebration of what the sector has achieved in the first 20 years of the parliament. I hope it also demonstrates the crucial importance of voluntary organisations as we look ahead to the next 20 years and together, we seek to build a society of which we can all be proud.

Ken Macintosh, MSP,
Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament

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SMOKE FREE PUBLIC PLACES

A day in the pub, or even a meal at a restaurant, was often associated with sitting in a cigarette-induced fug. However at the turn of the 21st century, health charities decided to take on tobacco giants in a bid to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke.

Scotland was the first country in the UK and the second in Europe to introduce smoke-free legislation. The campaign was led by ASH Scotland, with support from a coalition of Scotland's health charities and medical bodies, focusing on providing evidence-based research and information to MSPs, the public and the media in the face of strong opposition from the tobacco industry and licensed trade.

The Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 made it an offence to smoke in any public space in Scotland, with a few exceptions, such as prisons and care homes. Those opposed to the ban, including the Scottish Licensed Trade Association, predicted pubs and restaurants would

close as a result and people would smoke more at home instead. But their predictions never came to fruition and levels of public support for the ban actually increased afterwards.

ASH Scotland, led by then chief executive Maureen Moore, had been collecting evidence on the health risks of second-hand smoke for several years. The new Scottish Government initially favoured a voluntary approach but ASH Scotland surveys proved that this was not working in practice.

The charity initially focused on communicating evidence on heart and lung damage by smoke, then on rebuttal arguments to counteract a tobacco industry funded PR campaign of misinformation and scaremongering.

Detailed responses were submitted to government consultations on smoking in public places, focused briefings circulated to MSPs and a cross-party group on tobacco control formed.

Sheila Duffy, current chief executive of ASH Scotland, said the main challenge

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The press was very hostile, saying it would kill the pub culture and spoil people's fun. We had to frame it as a debate about health, about a toxic substance, not people's comfort.



“

Smoking is still far too prevalent, but real progress has been made in reducing its acceptability, prevalence and health impact. It is now hard to believe that folk once smoked more or less everywhere and I am glad to have played a part in the radical culture change we have seen over the last 13 years.

Kenneth Gibson, SNP

was an initial lack of interest from the public and media.

“The press was very hostile, saying it would kill the pub culture and spoil people’s fun. We had to frame it as a debate about health, about a toxic substance, not people’s comfort. The heated media debate helped explain to people what it was about. In the end it was the change in public opinion which pushed it forward. It helped that Ireland – a similar society and culture to ours – had introduced a ban on smoking in workplaces in 2004 to protect staff’s health.”

MSP Stewart Maxwell, the SNP spokesperson on public health, was a strong supporter, proposing a private Member’s Bill which was later picked up by the Scottish Government, supported by First Minister Jack McConnell (Labour) and Health Minister Andy Kerr (Labour), and widened to include enclosed public places.

Research collated by ASH Scotland in 2016 to mark the act’s 10-year anniversary found significant health benefits, as well as changes in public behaviour and attitudes to smoking.



1999

2005

2019

SAVING MARINE LIFE

Marine life across the world faces a battle for survival, as climate change brings rising temperatures and plastic pollution threatens species. However work to protect Scotland's seas has been underway for many years, as environmental groups aim to safeguard the huge variety of creatures that live in our waters.

Marine resources are vital to Scotland - with 61 per cent of UK waters within Scotland, internationally important wildlife and an economy dependent on a thriving marine environment for food and tourism.

But a decade ago a lack of effective protection had resulted in a decline in the health of Scotland's seas. Since 2007, marine and environmental charities have worked together through the Scottish Environment LINK partnership Save Scottish Seas, including the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, Marine Conservation Society, National Trust for Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Scottish Wildlife

Trust, WWF Scotland and Whale and Dolphin Conservation. The partnership secured world-leading Scottish legislation, putting the health of our seas on the road to recovery.

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 required creating a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and a National Marine Plan for Scotland's marine environment. With marine conservation devolved to the Scottish Parliament, the campaigners pushed for a range of measures to help improve protection.

Save Scottish Seas partnership convenor Calum Duncan, of the Marine Conservation Society, said: "A combination of expert reports, targeted advocacy, parliamentary and stakeholder events, and a campaign with over 15,000 supporters, helped us engage with all the political parties, commercial and other user groups, and the public."

Save Scottish Seas shifted rhetoric to reality through research, workshops

“

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LINK ensured that there was a coordinated effort rather than a piecemeal approach to the campaign. If an MSP had a question it was possible to approach a single body to obtain an overview. MSPs were lobbied by a single organisation, making it easier for them to manage their time and ensuring that no contradictory messages were provided.

Bill Wilson, SNP



and conferences, MSP site visits and public campaigning. Most visibly, the Don't Take the P (out of MPAs) campaign in 2014-15 harnessed 4,700 voices of support to help secure protection from damaging fishing activities in the 20 most vulnerable inshore MPAs.

But what has the act achieved? Commitment to a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network, 31 new MPAs and an ecosystem-based National Marine Plan secured by the legislation represent a major step towards reversing the historic decline in biodiversity that Scotland's seas have suffered.

Close engagement with officials, decision makers and industry, bolstered by strong public support,

ensured duties on Scottish ministers, that would otherwise have been discretionary powers, were enshrined in the act. Civil servants invited and valued the expertise and input from the environmental voluntary sector, bolstered by dedicated capacity to meet the high workload.

Duncan continued: "Whilst challenging to unite support and political will for ambitious legislation, it is another matter to maintain that ambition through delivery and implementation at a consistently high level nationally and regionally. The value of co-ordinating this collective voice cannot be overstated in placing and keeping the bigger picture of ecosystem recovery in the minds of decision makers."

1999

2010

2019

ABOLITION OF TUITION FEES

The issue of tuition fees in Scotland has always been a contentious one, with student groups keen to ensure young people are not burdened with large amounts of debt before they begin their careers.

In 1998, university fees were reintroduced by the Labour government at a cost of £1,000 per year. After devolution, the Liberal Democrats made scrapping tuition fees a central part of their election manifesto, and secured the pledge as part of their negotiations to join the Labour-led coalition in the new Scottish Parliament.

An independent study, the Cubie Report, recommended up-front fees should be ended. However, the report stopped short of backing completely free university education, suggesting a graduate endowment (GE) to help fund bursaries. Students would pay back a portion of fees after graduating and earning above a repayment threshold. The GE was scrapped by the SNP government in

2008, following a campaign by NUS Scotland, who are committed to free undergraduate education in Scotland.

Mike Day, director of NUS Scotland between 2007 and 2012, said: “Our strategy was to produce solid research and target decision-makers, backed by activity like email campaigns, and to keep communications open with all parties.

“There had been huge demonstrations against tuition fees in Scotland and London. While we lost the tuition fee argument with the Westminster Government, it was instrumental in getting people in Scotland thinking about the issue. The Liberal Democrats south of the border gave up their commitment to abolishing tuition fees but their Scottish counterparts supported the policy.”

The GE fee of just over £2,000 was introduced by the Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) Act 2001 and



There had been huge demonstrations against tuition fees in Scotland and London. While we lost the tuition fee argument with the Westminster Government, it was instrumental in getting people in Scotland thinking about the issue.



“

The abolition of tuition fees is one of the achievements from the last 20 years that I am most proud of and it would not have been possible without the Scottish Parliament.

Our free tuition policy ensures that access to university is based on the ability to learn and not the ability to pay.

Nicola Sturgeon, SNP

applied from autumn that year. It was scrapped by the Graduate Endowment Abolition Act in 2008, passed by 67 votes to 61.

In 2011, more than 4,000 students marched on Holyrood, combined with an NUS-led letter writing campaign and behind the scenes lobbying. First Minister Alex Salmond said that “rocks would melt under the sun” before an SNP government introduced tuition fees, places were protected and a £7,000 minimum income for the poorest

students was agreed representing an investment of £260 million by 2015.

Scottish students now pay no upfront fees nor an endowment after they graduate. Those from EU states are also exempt, although students from the rest of the UK still pay fees at Scottish universities.

A BBC poll ahead of the 2011 Scottish Parliament elections found retaining free tuition for Scottish students was the third most popular policy, ahead of the council tax freeze, free prescriptions and reducing business taxes.



1999

2008

2019

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the major threats to human existence. However Scotland is leading the way in implementing change which could bring the Earth back from the brink.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a diverse coalition of over 40 civil society organisations in Scotland which campaigns together on climate change, including environment, faith and international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups.

“Partnership working was key,” said former SCCS chairman Mike Robinson. “In the early days the crux was to form a coalition that was credible to politicians. We needed wide representation, a diverse range of organisations and groups with large memberships to show we had popular support. That made it easier to agree on the bigger picture and the need to do something about climate change, to galvanise concern and demand genuine action. Agreeing a common agenda and a clear set of

aims helped us to win public and political support.”

In May 2007, the Scottish Greens supported Alex Salmond’s election as First Minister, and his subsequent appointments of ministers, in return for early tabling of the climate change bill.

SCSS secured a government commitment to a 42 per cent reduction target by 2020, by initiating a media push with celebrities, business figures and charity leaders the weekend before the final debate on the bill. They also held a rally held outside the Scottish Parliament on the day of the final vote itself, with constituents encouraged to ask their MSPs how they were going to vote.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Bill was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament on 24 June 2009. The act set world-leading greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, including a target to reduce emissions by 80 per cent by 2050



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In the early days the crux was to form a coalition that was credible to politicians. ... Agreeing a common agenda and a clear set of aims helped us to win public and political support.

“

Many of the non-governmental organisations with whom we have been familiar over the 10 short years of this Parliament have worked together under the Stop Climate Chaos banner to send to parliament and the people of this country a coherent and co-ordinated message that we should consider and, frankly, be inspired by.

John Swinney, SNP

compared to 1990 levels, with an interim target of 42 per cent by 2020. It also imposed a duty on Scottish ministers to report on the progress of these targets and on public bodies to report annually to ministers on their compliance with the climate change duties.

Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 45 per cent since 1990, which means the target set in the 2009 act to reduce emissions by 42 per cent by 2020 has already been exceeded.

Other charity coalitions have since approached SCCS for advice following its success in persuading the Scottish Government to make climate change a priority.

However the work of the coalition goes on as it aims to influence the ongoing Climate Change Bill.



MINIMUM ALCOHOL PRICING

Scotland's relationship with alcohol is a long and complex one – however even in the present day one in 15 of all deaths is alcohol-related. Health charities, the police and health professionals have argued that increasing the price is one of the most cost-effective policy measures to reduce consumption and harm.

And after a lengthy campaign, Scotland became the first country in the world to introduce minimum unit pricing (MUP) in May 2018.

Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said organisations involved in the campaign faced a battle to curb the sale of alcohol.

“Parts of the alcohol industry – notably global spirits producers – put up considerable opposition to minimum unit pricing,” she said. “They argued that alcohol consumption was a personal choice; that only a small minority drank excessively; and that minimum price

would unfairly punish moderate drinkers. Alcohol Focus Scotland and others helped rebut these claims and built political and public support by providing briefings on the evidence, undertaking research, meeting with decision makers, and by keeping the issue in the media.”

Health campaigners were clear that the international evidence pointed to increasing price as an essential component of any strategy to tackle Scotland's increasing alcohol problem. Taxation had traditionally been seen as the main route to increasing price but this option was not available to Scotland as taxation was reserved to the UK Government.

The Scottish Government had been trying to introduce minimum pricing for alcohol since 2009. The parliament finally passed the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act in 2012, to introduce an MUP system for alcohol.



Alcohol Focus Scotland and others built support by providing briefings on the evidence, undertaking research, meeting with decision makers, and by keeping the issue in the media.



“

The introduction of minimum unit pricing was a real milestone for Scotland. It is a bold public health policy that takes action to discourage alcohol misuse, by targeting the most harmful strong low cost alcohol. Third sector organisations successfully made the persuasive case to go ahead with the strategy.

Willie Rennie, LIB DEM

However the legislation was challenged in court by representatives from alcohol industry, delaying its implementation for over five years. On 15 November 2017, the UK Supreme Court confirmed that the legislation was lawful and a minimum price of 50p per unit was introduced on 1 May 2018.

A global first, it is estimated that minimum pricing will save the lives of hundreds of Scots and improve the lives of thousands more, helping to prevent the next generation from becoming heavy drinkers. In the



first year alone, a 50p minimum unit price will prevent an estimated 60 alcohol-related deaths, 1,600 hospital admissions and 3,500 crimes.

Following an independent evaluation, parliament will decide on whether to renew the minimum price after six years as required within the act.



1999

2018

2019

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE

Asbestos disease kills 5,000 men and women every year in the UK. Countless numbers of families have lost loved ones as a result of the killer industrial substance.

Clydeside Action on Asbestos (CAA) has led the fight to gain justice for Scots affected by asbestos and launched a series of campaigns to restore the right to pursue compensation for victims and their families.

CAA were at the heart of the campaigns that lead to the following Scottish legislation: Rights of Relatives to Damages (Mesothelioma) (Scotland) Act 2007; Damages (Asbestos Related Conditions) (Scotland) Act 2009; and the Damages (Scotland) Act 2011.

Each campaign served to close loopholes or address deficiencies in the law that had a negative impact upon the levels of compensation that the courts could pay to victims of asbestos related disease. The 2007 act is perhaps the best and most profound example of achieving such an outcome through campaigning for legislative reform.

Rights of Relatives to Damages (Mesothelioma) (Scotland) Act 2007 addressed an unfair and cruel dilemma that faced victims of mesothelioma. Before the act, victims of mesothelioma could pursue a claim for damages on their own behalf but only if they were prepared to accept that their family would not be able to pursue a claim for emotional harm after their death. So a victim of mesothelioma could choose to pursue a claim and to secure compensation which would help ease their last days, but in so doing they would prevent their relatives from being able to pursue claims after their death.

CAA, through its campaigning activities, convinced the then Scottish Government to address the invidious choice faced by victims of mesothelioma. The 2007 act provided that where a victim dies of mesothelioma relatives should retain the right to sue regardless of whether the victim had successfully obtained compensation before their death.

“

We got a change in the law so now the person can take their damages and after their death their family can come back and claim damages for their own loss and dependence.



“

I was pleased to play a part in getting legislation changed so that workers who had been exposed to asbestos in the routine course of their work were recognised. Action on Asbestos played a major role in informing and advocating, ensuring that politicians listened and acted.

Cathy Jamieson, LAB

The Scottish Law Commission had previously looked at this issue and had recommended the need for change. CAA were able to use this as the platform for campaigning on the issue. CAA engaged in wide political discussions with members across the chamber. CAA worked with colleagues in the Trade Union movement and wider civic society to convince the Scottish Government to take legislation forward. They were supported by healthcare professionals, personal injury solicitors and local councillors and officials.

Phyllis Craig, senior welfare rights officer and a director at CAA, said “The victims of this terrible disease were going to die and they are being

put in a position where they had to make an agonising choice – do they take the money now so they can live their life and enjoy it or leave it for their family after they die?

“We thought that was morally wrong, we fought against that and the Scottish Government supported it. We got a change in the law so now the person can take their damages and after their death their family can come back and claim damages for their own loss and dependence”.

The success of this campaign was recognised when Clydeside Action on Asbestos won the Public Campaign of the Year title at the Scottish Politicians of the Year awards in 2008.

1999

2007

2019



ORGAN DONATION OPT OUT

Three people a day in the UK are in need of an organ transplant. However less than half of Scotland's population have signed up to donate their organs on death. This led to a Scottish charity launching a campaign which aimed to build on public support for an opt-out system for donation to be introduced.

The Organ Donation Opt Out was introduced by the Scottish Government in 2017, allowing organs to be used in transplants in the absence of express permission. The British Heart Foundation (BHF) Scotland led the call to change the law, backed by the British Medical Association and former MSP Anne McTaggart (Labour) who introduced a Private Member's Bill in 2016 following a public consultation, with 82 per cent of respondents supporting the move. Other health charities including the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and the Scottish Kidney Federation supported the campaign.

The Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill enables hospitals to presume consent for organ donation unless people specifically "opt out" during their lifetime or their families strongly object. It excludes children and adults unable to make their own decisions. The bill was passed in February and is set to come into force before the next parliament elections in 2021, following a high-profile awareness-raising campaign.

The opt-out system will lead to an increase in organ donations and lives saved.

BHF Scotland got the opt-out campaign up and running in 2013 following a Glasgow Evening Times petition which secured more than 18,000 signatures calling for the introduction of an opt-out system.

Initial meetings with government officials and ministers met with strong opposition. David McColgan, senior policy and public affairs manager (devolved nations) at BHF Scotland,



The hearing was contentious and heated by parliamentary standards. It was a very public moment in the Scottish Parliament.



“

I led the campaign through the necessary processes to enable the bill to raise the awareness and knowledge of individuals to make an informative decision and choice in life.

This work was hugely supported by the BHF who co-chaired many of the community and political consultations needed to compile the necessary evidence and research for committee papers.

Anne McTaggart, LAB

led the campaign. He said: “We were told opt-out organ donation was opposed and would not be introduced. The petition in Scottish Parliament for introduction of opt-out was closed, with no recommendation to introduce it. So we decided to go down the more time-consuming route of a member’s bill, supported by Anne McTaggart who was incredibly proactive and passionate.”

BHF carried out public polls every six months during its campaign, which showed ever-increasing levels of public support, particularly among young people.

The campaign hit a setback when the member’s bill was narrowly defeated at the first stage by just two votes. Two sets of evidence were then given to the parliament’s Health and Sport Committee. “The hearing was contentious and heated by parliamentary standards. It was a very public moment in the Scottish Parliament,” recalled McColgan.

A turning point came with the 2016 election, which saw the SNP majority

government become a minority administration and Aileen Campbell appointed as Public Health Minister.

Scottish Labour had pledged to reintroduce the bill following the election, led by MSP Mark Griffin, whose own father had died during a heart transplant because of the lengthy wait for a suitable organ.

However just four weeks after the election, McColgan received a phone call to say the Scottish Government was going to introduce a soft opt-out system.



1999

2019

DEBT ARRANGEMENT SCHEMES

Having the bailiffs turn up at the door is a nightmare for any family. However, the creation of the Scottish Parliament led to an opportunity to address some of the hard-line tactics used by debt recovery companies.

Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) put forward an unsuccessful amendment at Westminster to the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1993 in an attempt to introduce a debt arrangement scheme – a plan which allowed a person’s debt to be managed and to reduce the use of bailiffs.

Despite the battle for the legislation failing at Westminster, CAS saw the creation of the Scottish Parliament as an opportunity to reignite its campaign. The Abolition of POUNDINGS and Warrant Sales Act 2001 became the first piece of legislation to be passed by the newly formed parliament. It prevented warrant officers from removing people’s furniture to pay poll and council tax debts and opened up a wider discussion about debt recovery.

Susan McPhee, head of policy and public affairs at CAS, said: “We knew from our bureau service that people were being pursued relentlessly by creditors who had lent them money irresponsibly. Before the Scottish Parliament it was difficult to get any Scottish legislation through, it was exceptionally hard to lobby Westminster from Edinburgh. Consumer credit is reserved but diligence (the legal term for debt protection) became devolved so we saw that as a way of changing policy.

“We were fortunate that the wife of Neil Whitty, one of the Scottish law commissioners, was a CAS volunteer so he was aware of our work. I gave evidence along with one of our bureau managers who told powerful real-life stories of the impact of debt on people’s lives.”

Between 2000 and 2002, Susan and her colleagues met with civil servants and Labour’s Margaret Curran, then Minister for Social Justice, and carried out research into voluntary

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Before the Scottish Parliament it was difficult to get any Scottish legislation through, it was exceptionally hard to lobby Westminster from Edinburgh.



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The bill is the result of a lot of hard work by people with all sorts of competing interests who pulled together to deliver the alternative that the parliament had called for. We now have a bill that has drawn together a panorama of opinion and ideas and achieved a consensual approach, which was no mean feat.

Margaret Curran, LAB



debt repayment programmes which fed into the Debt Arrangement and Attachment Bill.

CAS was also invited to join a Scottish Parliament all party working group – the first and only group of its kind – set up to look at an alternative to poindings and warrant sales. CAS used this platform to promote the development of a debt arrangement scheme, and also formed its own working group to develop a proposal for the operation of such a scheme.

The Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002 introduced the Debt Arrangement Scheme (DAS) in November 2004 as a debt management tool to allow debtors to repay multiple debts over an extended period, free from the threat of legal action or diligence (debt enforcement) from their creditors.

There have been almost 26,000 DAS approved schemes since the act's introduction.

1999

2004

2019

MAKING RENTING RIGHT

A shortage of affordable and social housing has seen rapid growth in the private rented sector, now home to 360,000 households in Scotland. The number of households in the private rented sector in Scotland has tripled since 1999.

Shelter Scotland identified that the scale of growth in the private rented sector and the changing nature of tenants meant that tenancy arrangements no longer provided the security or the quality from which both tenants and landlords benefit. Over the past 10 years, the charity has campaigned for and worked towards positive changes across the private rented sector in Scotland.

Graeme Brown, director at Shelter Scotland, said: “We have always engaged with private renting policy and law as so many of our clients come from that sector. Since the early 2000s, there had been a series of reforms, to licensing and standards, for example. However, it was increasingly clear that the 1988 tenancy arrangements were

no longer suitable for the more diverse profile of tenants: not just students and young people, but families with children too.”

The Scottish Government had carried out its own review of private renting in 2008 and 2009 and was receptive to the need for wider reform. An independent chair was appointed and a series of working groups established to go through options for change.

Brown continued: “We built a well-evidenced case for reform, through research, policy papers, public facing campaigns and events, arguing change was a necessity for a well-functioning system, and recommended a model for an indefinite tenancy. The biggest challenge, as expected, was from landlords who argued it would lead to landlords exiting from the market. However, we also argued that it would benefit good landlords with long term investment intentions.”

“

We built a well-evidenced case for reform, through research, policy papers, public facing campaigns and events, arguing change was a necessity for a well-functioning system.



“

Both landlords and tenants have told us this new law will mean a modern and fit-for-purpose sector. This range of measures will ensure the sector is better managed, simplified and successful for all in the private rented sector. I am delighted that this bill has passed with cross party support.

Margaret Burgess, SNP

Shelter Scotland ran its Making Renting Right campaign during the legislative process, building support from a coalition of over 30 organisations. Staff held meetings with MSPs, had campaign days across Scotland, provided briefings, and gave evidence to committees.

Shelter Scotland clients were put at the heart of the campaign, providing case studies of tenants unwilling to complain about issues such as damp or repairs in case they got evicted. Politicians from all parties were urged to sign up to the campaign and their photos published on the charity’s website.



The Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force on 1 December 2017 and introduced the new private residential tenancy. The act meant the end of fixed term tenancies and ‘no fault’ evictions, where landlords could make tenants leave for no reason. The new tenancy is open-ended and lasts until the tenant wishes to leave the property or the landlord uses one of 18 grounds for eviction.

The legislation is one of the most progressive measures in housing in UK in the last 20 years, seeking to address some of the imbalance of power between tenants and landlords.



1999

2017

2019

AFFORDABLE HOMES

As property prices have risen in Scotland, so has the need for affordable housing.

In 2015, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), Shelter Scotland and Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland released a report which defined the level of affordable housing need.

The report, and subsequent joint campaign, called for 60,000 affordable homes to be built during the parliamentary term from 2016 to 2021 and for this to be backed up by at least £700 million for each year over the five years.

Prior to the campaign with Shelter Scotland and CIH Scotland, SFHA launched Keeping Our Homes Affordable in 2013 to call for an increase in housing subsidy rates as cuts had resulted in social landlords not being able to build. The Scottish Government formed a group to review subsidy levels – which the SFHA was part of – and the body’s

recommendations to increase subsidy levels were accepted. This was a vital step before the campaign to increase the affordable home target as, without the funding, social landlords would not have been able to build.

Before the Scottish Parliament elections in 2016, SFHA, Shelter Scotland and CIH Scotland carried out extensive lobbying work to gain cross-party support for the report’s proposals. This was accompanied by a media campaign which gained high profile coverage across national, regional and local media outlets, including television and radio interviews.

In 2016, the SNP was elected again to government and subsequently announced a target of 50,000 affordable homes, accompanied by funding of £3 billion, to be delivered by 2021.

SFHA’s former head of public affairs Sarah Boyack said: “Although less than the 60,000 affordable homes our research called for, we



The increase in the affordable homes target and the funding of £3 billion has allowed housing associations and co-operatives to increase or re-start their building programmes.



“

Affordable housing is about more than just bricks and mortar – it provides safe, warm homes, helps create a fairer Scotland, and delivers great economic benefits.

Kevin Stewart, SNP



welcomed the Scottish Government increasing the affordable homes target and the cross-party support it received. Our research played a part in achieving this.

“It is vital that post-2021, social housing providers can continue to deliver the housing that Scotland needs – and our new joint research with Shelter Scotland and CIH Scotland, which will be launched this year, will be key to ensuring that happens.”

The increase in the affordable homes target and the funding of £3 billion has allowed housing associations and co-operatives to increase or re-start their building programmes. Previous cuts to subsidy levels had resulted in some social landlords stopping their building programmes.

SFHA, Shelter Scotland and CIH Scotland are working on new research into affordable housing need post-2021. This research will help make the case for investment in affordable housing after this parliament.



1999

2017

2019

CONTINUE TO CARE

It is well-documented that outcomes for those leaving care are much poorer than for their peers. Research shows that the single most important factor for improving outcomes for young people is increasing the age and the way they leave care. Youngsters who stay for longer in positive care placements benefit from the stability and security that it offers, and enjoy better outcomes in terms of education, employment and health.

In 2013, Who Cares? Scotland, in coalition with Aberlour and Barnardo's Scotland, kick-started the award-winning Continue to Care campaign with one clear ask – let people stay in care until they are 21. They wanted to let the relationships that care experienced young people had built up and the stability that they had found continue beyond the age of 16.

In 2012, care experienced young people supported by Who Cares? Scotland responded to a call for evidence from the Scottish

Parliament's Education and Culture Committee. The committee was looking at decision making processes around when a child should be taken into care and why the education outcomes of the care experienced population were so poor. Their letter asking to meet with committee members marked a turning point for care experienced people in Scotland, enabling them to speak directly to MSPs about what life in care was like.

They talked about the poor outcomes, their own experiences of a disrupted education and homelessness. They explained that too many young people were leaving care too soon and relationships that they had spent years building up were being severed at the age of 16.

They also spoke to politicians, journalists and members of the public to gain support for changes to the law. For many of the young people, the campaign was about ensuring future generations would experience a better care journey than they did.

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For many of the young people, the campaign was about ensuring future generations would experience a better care journey than they did.



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I served for eight years as the head of policy at Aberlour. This was during the passage of the Children and Young People Act, when we formed the coalition on continuing care with Barnardos and Children 1st.

It was through this coalition that we were able to celebrate the biggest change in care leavers provision in over 20 years.

Alex Cole-Hamilton, LIB DEM

Duncan Dunlop, chief executive of Who Cares? Scotland, said: “When the opportunity to take the voice of care experienced people direct to decision makers in the parliament presented itself, it was an opportunity to make sure that they were able to influence decisions about their lives at the highest level.

“A key point in retrospect was that the respect given to their voice meant the legacy was not just legislation, but was also the dawning of the movement of care experienced people - we recognised this change was achieved because people had

recognised and claimed their care identity. This was a global first and has gone from strength to strength.”

Changes introduced by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 mean that when a young person in care reaches 16 they are given the option to stay for a further five years. If the placement cannot be maintained, or if it is in the young person’s best interests to start an alternative placement, a welfare assessment must be provided. The legislation also means young people leaving care are eligible to receive “aftercare support” up to the age of 26.



1999

2014

2019

FREE PERSONAL CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Age Concern Scotland led a lengthy campaign to introduce free personal care for older people in Scotland.

In 1999, a Royal Commission was set up to look at options for a sustainable system of social care for the elderly. Its report recommended that personal care should be available in all settings, free at the point of delivery in tandem with the health service and paid for by general taxation.

The UK Parliament rejected the proposals but Age Concern Scotland - together with a range of organisations concerned with issues affecting older people - continued to campaign for change when the new Scottish Parliament was set up.

Maureen O'Neill, former director of Age Concern Scotland, said: "Our starting point from the outset was one of inequality. Under the NHS care is free at the point of delivery, but not in people's own homes or care homes. Our contention was that investment in older people had always

been ignored and with an ageing population, the need for strategic long-term planning was imperative.

"Our biggest challenge was that our colleagues in England and Wales didn't agree with the introduction of free personal care, so Scotland was on its own. Devolution gave us the opportunity we needed and we worked with other pensioner organisations to call for equality of access. It was very much a team effort. The then health minister Susan Deacon wasn't very keen - the key concern was cost."

The campaign received widespread media coverage. The turning point came when Henry McLeish (Labour) spoke in support of free personal care at a major Age Concern conference in Kirkcaldy - on the day he became First Minister.

O'Neill said: "It was like a dam bursting. The government ran with it and the legislation was supported unanimously in parliament. Free

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Free personal care was engrained in Scottish policy, the result of the combined power of democracy, devolution and determination.

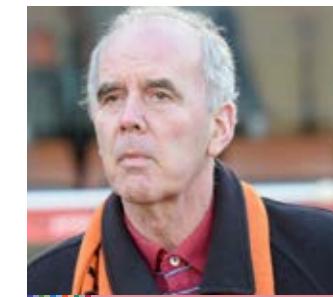


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Frank's Law means that people under 65 who were not previously entitled to free personal care are now eligible for support.

The legislation is a real step forward in delivering progress for some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Miles Briggs, CONS



personal care was engrained in Scottish policy, the result of the combined power of democracy, devolution and determination.”

The Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act introduced free nursing and personal care for the elderly on 1 July 2002. All personal care charges for people cared for in their own homes and in nursing homes were abolished. Personal care includes personal hygiene, continence management, food and diet, help with mobility and medication.

A Scottish Parliament Health Committee inquiry in 2005 concluded that the policy enabled more people to receive care at home; reduced

delayed discharges, freeing up NHS resources and largely ended disputes between local authorities and health boards over the care of elderly people.

And the legislation has been expanded just this year. Frank Kopel, a former Dundee United footballer, was diagnosed with early onset dementia at just 59 and died aged 65 in 2014, just weeks after he qualified for free personal care. His widow Amanda Kopel campaigned for free personal care to be extended to everyone who requires it, regardless of age. Subsequently, the Scottish Government agreed to extend free personal care to younger people with degenerative conditions.

1999

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2019

SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND

All families hope that they will never have to access emergency loans – however crisis grants are vital to helping those struck by poverty to access financial support quickly.

The Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) was launched in 2013 to provide crisis grants for living expenses in the event of an emergency and community care grants to enable and support independent living. It is a national scheme delivered by Scotland's 32 local authorities on behalf of the Scottish Government and replaced the discretionary Social Fund previously run by the UK Department for Work and Pensions, which provided crisis loans for vulnerable people.

The Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to provide welfare funds.

Peter Kelly, director of the Poverty Alliance, said: “The act, by establishing the Scottish Welfare Fund on a statutory footing, has had an important impact on the lives of people

experiencing poverty across Scotland and was brought about in no small part thanks to the voice of the third sector.

“In providing a cash-based response, the fund offers a more dignified approach to supporting people experiencing income crisis; an approach that gives people choice about how to meet their own needs. In the context of the last few years of social security reform, stagnating pay and rising living costs, it has acted for many people as a vital safety net that has protected them from harm.”

The fund provides a one-off grant for living expenses or household goods which does not have to be repaid, unlike the previous Social Fund loans. It is limited to the amount of money made available to the council every year, and any additional resources local authorities use to top up the fund; therefore payments may be restricted. Councils have extensive discretion over how the scheme is provided in their local area, in line with regulations and guidance.

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In the context of the last few years of social security reform, stagnating pay and rising living costs, it has acted for many people as a vital safety net that has protected them from harm.



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The Scottish Welfare Fund provides a vital lifeline to families during times of crisis, and helps people in desperate situations where they cannot afford to buy everyday items, such as food or nappies, that many of us take for granted.

Angela Constance, SNP

The fund compares extremely favourably with local welfare assistance (LWA) schemes in England and Wales where provision has become increasingly patchy and has faced uncertainty. Applicants can get a crisis grant even if they are subject to a DWP sanction or disallowance which has reduced their benefit. The reason for the sanction should not be taken into account when the local authority is making a decision.

However, work to ensure the fund remains accessible to vulnerable people across Scotland is ongoing.

Kelly added: “We have to recognise that – with the fund’s budget remaining static since 2013/14 – it is now under significant strain. To ensure the fund continues to meet people’s needs – and to ensure the legacy of the act – it’s essential that its budget is increased and protected in the years ahead.”



1999

2013

2019

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Many adults have memories of their school dinners, more often than not negative memories. However in recent years there has been a drive to improve the quality of school meals, and most importantly to ensure they are available to all.

The Scottish Government introduced free school meals for all children in primary one to three in January 2015. The initiative was the result of a long-fought Scottish Free School Meals Campaign, led by Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in partnership with other organisations including One Parent Families Scotland, the Poverty Alliance and other children's charities. This was an extension to the previous policy of offering free school meals to children and young people from families on low incomes in receipt of certain means tested benefits.

A School Meals (Scotland) bill to introduce universal entitlement was introduced in the first Scottish Parliament in 2002 by MSP Tommy

Sheridan (SSP), co-sponsored by Alex Neil MSP (SNP) and John McAllion MSP (Labour). The bill was defeated but the Scottish Executive implemented the recommendations of the Hungry for Success report to increase the take-up and quality of school meals. In May 2005 another Scottish Socialist MSP Frances Curran lodged a proposal for a new School Meals (Scotland) bill, but this too was defeated.

The Education (School Lunches) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 extended entitlement to the children of parents receiving maximum Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credits, while 16 to 18 year olds getting these benefits in their own right could also claim free school meals.

A Scottish Government announcement in 2014 to provide free school meals to p1 - p3 pupils was followed by an amendment to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act. It gave ministers the power to require local authorities to provide

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Before the Scottish Parliament it was difficult to get any Scottish legislation through, it was exceptionally hard to lobby Westminster from Edinburgh.



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With child poverty rising and reliance on foodbanks increasing alarmingly, children need a free and nutritious meal at least once a day including during school holidays.

Elaine Smith, LAB

free school meals to all children in selected year groups. The government awarded councils extra funding to implement the policy, which affected 135,000 children.

John Dickie, director of CPAG in Scotland, said: “We had disappointments along the way but kept pushing the issue working in partnership with others in the voluntary sector. We did a lot of work with opposition parties, as well as the Scottish Executive, speaking at fringe events at party conferences as well as helping build a strong civic society coalition of support.

“Eventually we were successful in getting the SNP to commit to piloting free school meals for all in P1 to P3 in the run up to the 2007 parliamentary election and include it in their subsequent local government concordat agreement.”

The universal provision of free, healthy school meals has proven benefits in relation to uptake, family budgets, educational attainment, public health and addressing inequality. It also removed the stigma of means testing for children from low income families.



1999

2015

2019

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

Human trafficking is seen by society as one of the most serious crimes, and the idea that slaves exist in the modern world is shocking. However only a decade ago, no individual had ever been convicted of the crime in Scotland. Even though trafficking was occurring, issues with the law meant prosecution was difficult.

In 2008, Amnesty International conducted research on human trafficking in Scotland in partnership with grassroots campaigners including Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA) and Stop the Traffik in Glasgow. This led to the publication of Scotland's Slaves – a briefing focused on women and girls that revealed people were being trafficked across Scotland, and that victims had subsequently been identified and rescued by police.

The briefing highlighted that no successful prosecutions had ever been brought against those responsible, partially as a result of neither Scots Law nor English Law having suitable

legislation in place or a clear definition for human trafficking and exploitation.

Amnesty and anti-trafficking campaigners called for legislation to protect the victims of trafficking and improved training and collaborative working to identify victims and offer improved support services. An Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland inquiry into human trafficking in 2010 also called for Scottish-specific legislation and a victim-centred approach.

Partnership working was crucial to the success of this campaign. Amnesty International worked with partners who had expertise at service level and those working with victims of trafficking throughout Scotland. During the passage of the bill, Amnesty called for further provision on Independent Legal Guardians for all separated and unaccompanied children and the development of a specific Scottish National Referral Mechanism (NRM) based on a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach

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The number of potential human trafficking victims in Scotland identified and helped is rising. In 2017, there were 213 referrals to Police Scotland – a 42 per cent increase from 2016.



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This important bill consolidated and strengthened the existing criminal law against human trafficking and the offence relating to slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. The evidence from voluntary organisations undoubtedly helped members improve the bill during the scrutiny process.

Margaret Mitchell, CONS

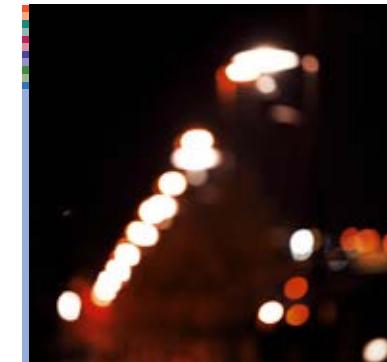
which provides a human rights framework for the identification and support of victims of trafficking.

In September 2013, Jenny Marra MSP (Labour) launched a consultation on new legislation and in March 2014, former Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill (SNP) announced that the Scottish Government would draft a dedicated Human Trafficking bill for Scotland.

In October 2015 the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act. The act was intended to strengthen and consolidate existing laws on human trafficking and offer more robust support to victims.

It raised the maximum penalty for trafficking to life imprisonment for both human trafficking and crimes related to exploitation, and placed a duty on Scottish Ministers to secure provision of immediate support and recovery services for victims of human trafficking and exploitation.

The number of potential human trafficking victims in Scotland identified and helped is rising. In 2017, there were 213 referrals to Police Scotland – a 42 per cent increase from 2016. The greatest increase 85 per cent) was in labour exploitation referrals, and over half related to male victims, both adults and children, a rise of 64 per cent from the previous year.



SOCIAL SECURITY

Through gaining devolved powers, the Scottish Government has pledged to build a fairer social security system.

The rebuilding of welfare offered unprecedented opportunities for third sector organisations to help create a new system that will provide support for the vulnerable.

The Scottish system will include new forms of assistance and a language that is distinct from that of the reserved social security system. The act consists of eight overarching principles which include: social security as a human right; respect for dignity of individuals at the heart of the system; and the system contributing to the reduction of poverty in Scotland.

Issues that the sector has offered support on include disability and carers benefits, overpayments, industrial injury assistance and funeral expenses.

Rob Gowans, policy officer at Citizens Advice Scotland, said sector involvement was key from the early stages.

“Benefits were an entirely new area for the Scottish Government and they sought our advice from an early stage,” he said. “We realised we had a unique opportunity to shape and influence the system. We convened a roundtable of organisations we thought would be interested to work together on various amendments to the bill.”

Organisations who have helped to create fairer legislation include Marie Curie and MND Scotland.

“What we noticed with the DWP definition of terminal illness, which referred to last six months of life, was that it was very restrictive,” said Richard Meade, head of policy and public affairs at Marie Curie.

“Only people with a terminal cancer diagnosis were managing to get their benefits quickly and without having

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The partnership between Marie Curie and MND Scotland – backed by 20 other organisations – was one of the most effective campaign partnerships I’ve worked on.



“

The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 is the product of the collective input of MSPs of all parties, third sector organisations and the Scottish public. They all shaped its development and, together, we have created a piece of legislation to be proud of.

Jeane Freeman, SNP



to go through one to one assessments, which we felt was unfair to those with other terminal conditions.

“The partnership between Marie Curie and MND Scotland – backed by 20 other organisations – was one of the most effective campaign partnerships I’ve worked on. We worked together on all aspects of the campaign and across our different departments. The public and MSPs were very supportive of it once we began to get the message across, and this led to a compelling case for change.”

One Parent Families Scotland highlighted the need for crisis grants to support those struck by poverty.

The charity’s head of policy and strategy Marion Davis said: “We

lobbied Scottish Government and submitted evidence which argued for a national scheme for Scotland that would provide community care grants and crisis grants rather than loans.

“We argued that while the DWP Social Fund had served many of the poorest families in Scotland, a quarter of community care applicants were from lone parent households. The reason why they need to access the fund is because they are living on incomes well below the poverty line, on which it is extremely difficult to cover unexpected costs.

“OPFS was extremely pleased and relieved when the Scottish Government continued a commitment to grants rather than loans.”

1999

2018

2019

EQUAL MARRIAGE

The campaign for equal marriage is one of the longest and most passionate to have been fought across the modern world.

The Equal Marriage campaign in Scotland called on the Scottish Government to legalise same sex marriage and mixed sex civil partnership in Scotland. The campaign was a partnership involving, amongst others, the Equality Network, NUS Scotland, the Scottish Youth Parliament, LGBT Youth Scotland and Stonewall Scotland.

During the 2011 Scottish Parliament elections, First Minister Alex Salmond was asked on TV if he supported same sex marriage. He said he did, and the SNP agreed to hold a consultation if they got back into government. Following a consultation which attracted 77,500 responses, the Scottish Government announced it would legalise same sex marriage.

A key message was that the ban on same sex marriage in Scotland was

discriminatory and not in keeping with a fair and progressive Scotland. Campaigners also pointed out that it would give religious and belief groups in Scotland the right to choose for themselves whether or not to conduct same sex ceremonies.

While many religious groups opposed the legislation, a coalition of 45 religious leaders and 25 religious groups launched the Faith in Marriage campaign supporting it. Opinion polls and consultations showed around two thirds of the public believed that same sex couples should be allowed to marry.

Sophie Bridger, campaigns, policy and research manager at Stonewall Scotland, said: “The same sex marriage legislation was a landmark moment of legal equality for lesbian, gay and bi people in Scotland.

“It was a signal to same sex couples all over Scotland that their love was just as important as anyone else’s. Being able to marry has brought



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It was a signal to same sex couples all over Scotland that their love was just as important as anyone else’s.

“

In my lifetime, gay people could be prosecuted for being in a loving relationship. Now, those same couples have been able to get married and celebrate their love for what it is.

That day, Holyrood was at its best – robust debate, high emotion – democracy in its purest form. For me, it’s when this Parliament came of age; when it helped push Scotland forwards.

Ruth Davidson, CONS

a great deal of joy and happiness to many same sex couples across Scotland. But we always knew that this was not the end of the road – there is still a lot to do to do make sure all LGBT people are accepted, without exception.”

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) bill was introduced in June 2013 and came into force on 16 December 2014. Civil partnerships could be exchanged for marriage certificates from that date, with the first same sex marriages taking place on 31 December 2014. The Scottish Episcopal Church decided in 2017 to conduct same sex marriage. A Church of Scotland committee is drafting church law on the issue and is due to report back this year.

By the middle of 2018, 4401 same sex marriages had been registered in Scotland. The Social Attitudes Survey 2015 revealed a huge rise in support for same sex marriage. More than two thirds of people (68 per cent) agreed that same sex couples should have the right to marry, compared with just two-fifths of the public (41 per cent) in 2002.

The bill passed by 108 to 15 votes – at the time, the third biggest proportion of votes in favour of equal marriage in the world.



1999

2014

2019

RIGHT TO ROAM

The campaign to enshrine Scotland's historic traditions of responsible access – sometimes known as 'the right to roam' – into law dates back to the 1890s, when Liberal MP James Bryce placed his Access to Mountains (Scotland) bill before Westminster. All subsequent efforts failed as successive governments avoided trying to get legislation through the House of Lords.

However in the 1990s, Scottish Labour MPs – led by enthusiastic hillwalker John Smith – were pressing the case for responsible access legislation for Scotland. In 1994 a report from the government's advisers on the countryside, Scottish Natural Heritage, called for an ambitious new approach which would give Scotland access arrangements "amongst the best in Europe". The subsequent legislation was the culmination of many decades of campaigning led by Ramblers Scotland.

On 23 January 2003, the Scottish Parliament passed the Land Reform

(Scotland) Act, which sets down statutory rights of access, if taken responsibly, over most areas of land and water. The act applies to all non-motorised access such as walking, cycling, horse riding, climbing, sailing and canoeing – and to the vast majority of land and inland water.

The hard-won legislation placed Scotland at the top of the international charts in terms of access. Scotland's excellent access rights – together with the Scottish Government's National Walking Strategy – have supported strong growth in recreational walking, up 13 per cent in six years. Walking now contributes an estimated £1.26 billion a year to the Scottish economy, according to VisitScotland. While there are still occasional issues with obstructions and non-compliant signage, conflict between walkers and landowners is relatively rare, due in no small part to the common sense, bigger picture

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It's vital to remember those organisations that campaigned over decades to bring this legislation into existence; legislation that has become the envy of the world.



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The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 remains one of the major successes of the Scottish Parliament in its first term, and there was strong cross-party support for the establishment of statutory access rights.

Richard Lochhead, SNP



approach of all – from farmers and foresters, to walkers and cyclists.

Cameron McNeish, who campaigned for the act during his time as Ramblers Scotland president, said: “It’s important to remember that the access provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act could never have been achieved through Westminster. The land-owning interests in the House of Lords would have continued to vote it down.

“The creation of the Scottish Parliament was crucial in giving voluntary organisations like Ramblers the confidence to campaign hard and ultimately very effectively to enshrine our traditional de facto right to roam

responsibly over land in Scotland in legislation. It’s vital to remember those organisations that campaigned over decades to bring this legislation into existence; legislation that has become the envy of the world.”

Dave Morris, Ramblers Scotland’s director during the campaign, said: “Access to nature should be a fundamental human right, recognised across the world and promoted by the United Nations. The Scottish right to roam legislation ensures citizens can access most of our land and water, lays obligations on land managers to facilitate this access and provides public bodies with duties to protect these rights.”



1999

2003

2019

REPEALING BAN ON DISCUSSING HOMOSEXUALITY IN SCHOOLS

A series of homophobic attacks on LGBT equality and pro-LGBT Labour councils by Margaret Thatcher's government led to a ban on discussing homosexuality in schools.

Section 28 (s28) of the Local Government Act 1988 was a controversial GB-wide amendment to local government law, enacted on 24 May 1988.

It stated that a local authority should “not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality” or “promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”.

Teachers, confused as to what was actually permitted, tended to err on the side of caution and were afraid to tackle homophobic bullying, while many LGBT groups were forced to close or limit their activities or self censor.

Tim Hopkins, director of the Equality Network, said: “The first ever

demonstration in Britain against the introduction of s28 was in December 1987 in Edinburgh. We set up the Equality Network – originally a group of friends around a kitchen table – in 1996 and repeal of s28 was top of the list of the things we wanted to change. We published a blueprint manifesto and backed the devolution referendum as we knew a Scottish Parliament would lead to better decision-making and hear Scottish voices more clearly.”

The charity, then run by volunteers on a shoestring budget, campaigned along with other equality bodies for equal opportunities to be at least partially devolved in the Scotland bill.

Hopkins said: “We contacted the Equal Opportunities Committee as soon as parliament was up and running in September 1999. The committee took evidence from the Communities Minister Wendy Alexander and in November the Scottish Executive announced the repeal of s28. Scottish Labour had been committed to repeal

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The newly devolved Scottish Parliament made history by repealing s28 as part of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act which passed on 21 June 2000.



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As a youthworker supporting young LGBT people, the Section 28 campaign felt pretty personal to me. I had to walk to work past billboards saying “protect our children” – and that meant from people like me! It was a very tough year, but we won in court, we won in parliament, and we won the media campaign too.

Patrick Harvie, GREEN



and perhaps initially it was seen as an easy win for the executive.”

The newly devolved Scottish Parliament made history by repealing s28 as part of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act, which passed on 21 June 2000. It was eventually repealed in the rest of Britain by the Local Government Act in November 2003.

The repeal paved the way for further devolved legislation and policy to improve LGBT rights and equality on issues: including hate crime, adoption, equal marriage and the inclusion of LGBT issues in the curriculum.

However a Keep the Clause campaign against repeal was launched by conservative religious organisations

and backed by the Daily Record newspaper. The Catholic Church claimed repealing s28 would be damaging to children.

Many organisations and individuals joined the Scrap the Section campaign to support the repeal. Five of the six parties at Holyrood supported repeal, while the Conservatives made an unsuccessful case that instead, education law should include a proviso that schools had to promote the primacy of marriage.

Hopkins said: “It was a fundamental indication of the direction the Scottish Parliament was going to take. If we had lost, it would have set LGBT equality back decades.”

1999
2000

2019

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY

Less than 500 people, many of whom live abroad, own half of all privately-owned land in Scotland - one of the highest concentrations of land ownership in the world.

The Land Reform Act (2003) enabled rural communities who successfully registered a community interest in land to have the first option to buy when it was offered for sale. The Community Right to Buy (CRB) was extended to include urban areas and gave rights for communities to apply to purchase land even when there was not a willing seller in the Community Empowerment Act 2015 and the Land Reform Act 2016 extended these rights for a community in pursuit of that community's sustainable development.

Community Land Scotland (CLS) was set up in 2010 to increase the momentum for land reform.

Peter Peacock, former policy director of CLS, said: "The 2003 act moved things forward and changed the

climate but its powers were limited and highly complex to use. Our objectives were to simplify it and have its powers widened in scope. The Scottish Government was committed to simplifying it but not at that stage to extending it.

"The Community Empowerment Bill gave us an opportunity to change this as government officials effectively had a blank sheet. We made a major policy submission, built relationships with the committee, gave oral and written evidence and lobbied on a cross party basis. We employed a former government solicitor and a legislation drafting expert to help us draft a targeted series of amendments to the bill.

"Our key aim was to extend community right to buy to all communities in Scotland, which was a significant breakthrough. After a lot of lobbying we got the Scottish Government to allow communities to buy land if it was abandoned or neglected. We didn't

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The Scottish Land Fund, set up in 2012 as a result of CLS campaigning, now has an annual budget of £10 million and has funded many of these purchases.





It is heartening that civil society remains engaged in making the case for land reform and for tackling the deeper questions of power that lie at the heart of the land question.

Andy Wightman , GREEN

think that went far enough and wanted to include purchase of land for sustainable development in the bill. In the end they added land where the use or management of the land was ‘detrimental’ to the environmental wellbeing of the community, which was a step forward.”

CLS worked closely with Global Witness, SCVO, Community Alliance, DTAS and CWA in aspects of the changes they were seeking.

Further campaigning led to a series of proposals in the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill 2016, including the provision of the Land Commission and amendments for a strong register of controlling interests in land, as the secrecy surrounding landowners could be hidden by shell companies and was

a real concern. The act also required ministers to produce a Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement, the first in the world, which adopts a human rights approach to land reform.

Since 1990, there has been more than a fivefold increase in the area of land in community ownership. As of June 2017, there were 562,230 acres in community. The Scottish Land Fund, set up in 2012 as a result of CLS campaigning, now has an annual budget of £10 million and has funded many of these purchases.

