



Office of the First Minister
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By Email: FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

29th April 2013

Dear First Minister,

I am writing to you regarding Human Rights and Equal Opportunities in Scotland for all, and especially the role of women in our society today. It appears to me we are all now focusing on Independence, and other issues seem to be put on the back burner.

A large number of single and married women have now become the main bread winner in the household, besides looking after the children and in some cases the entire family, and it is amazing how much hard work they do each and every day.

Still in 2013, women are not rewarded like men in their career or what kind of job they do to earn a living. Salaries where women are doing the same job as men, are receiving far less pay, which is not a healthy thing for the future of Scotland to build on.

I do not want to generalise, but some slight changes have been made by a few employers in recent times. Pensions and flexi-work for women, especially with young children should be encouraged at all levels, which would benefit our society and help women spend more time with the upbringing of their children, which is essential more than ever these days. It is my view with a new sort of tax rebate or incentive; this would help both women and employers this way, and most likely create more part time employment opportunities at the same time.

Just a few days ago I was speaking with a close friend in Aberfeldy, when she asked me for a loan of £50 to put fuel in her car, as she drives each day to Perth, where she works as a secretary. Her wee boy stays at the child minder costing some £3.95 per hour 3 days a week, and as a single mom, she really needs the job. Just recently she has started house cleaning on a Saturday, to make ends meet.

Here again, women living in rural communities are paying a hefty price, and something needs to be done, regarding travel expenses and child care for working mothers.

Humanos Aid International,
3 Creag Eilid, Grandtully,
Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland. PH15 2QR
Office: 01887 840278 | Mob: 07845 019709
e-mail: hai@humanos.org.uk
web: www.humanos.org.uk
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As you often said in the past: "Scotland should release its potential", which lately am not hearing as often from you anymore.

I do hope the Scottish Government is looking at the wellbeing of women and families in general, because whether Scotland becomes independent or stays in the Union, it should have priority.

Yours sincerely,
For Humanos Aid International

Billy

Founder / Director