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SNP ECHO UN REPORT FINDINGS ON UK GOVERNMENTS "IDEOLOGICAL ASSAULT" ON DISABLED PEOPLE

SNP CALL ON CHANCELLOR TO USE AUTUMN STATEMENT TO END AUSTERITY MEASURES

The SNP have echoed the findings of a damning UN report that criticises the UK government for its policies that have disproportionately affected disabled people and called on the UK government to end its "ideological assault" on disabled people in the UK.

The UN report was commissioned after a call by campaigners who issued a formal complaint to the international body about potential violations of disabled people's rights by the UK government.

The findings in the report claim that measures implemented by the UK government since 2010, including the bedroom tax and cuts to disability benefits, have disproportionately affected disabled people.

The UN report also condemned the government for bulldozing ahead with the changes to social security knowing they would have an adverse impact on disabled people and calls on the UK government to carry out a study of the impact of all spending cuts on those with disabilities.

In its conclusions it highlights that: "There is reliable evidence that the threshold of grave or systematic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities has been met."

Corri Wilson, the SNP's spokesperson for Disabilities, commented:

"This UN report sheds light on the UK government's shameful ideological assault on those with disabilities across the UK and the Chancellor must use the Autumn Statement to take action and abandon the Tory party's obsession with austerity.

"The report shows at length how it is the disabled and the sick who are disproportionately affected by the slashing of social security support. I would urge the government to undertake the recommendations of the report and conduct a wide-ranging study on the impact that spending cuts have had on disabled people.

"Theresa May seems to have abandoned her pledge on the steps of Downing Street of being on the side of the vulnerable. The UK government cannot simply turn away from the findings of an internationally respected organisation which explicitly states that the rights of disabled people have been violated."

ENDS