

Alex Sobel MP

Chair of the Human Rights Joint Committee

By email: alex.sobel.mp@parliament.uk

24th September 2026

Dear Alex Sobel MP,

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights. I know that throughout your parliamentary career you have been a strong advocate for human rights, and I am sure that the Committee will benefit greatly from your leadership at a particularly important time for rights and protections across the UK.

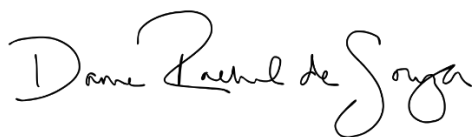
As a statutory appointee, my duty is to promote and protect the rights of children, and I have statutory powers under the Children Act 2004 to help me do this. But perhaps the most important thing I try to do is to make sure that children's voices are heard and understood by those making decisions that will affect their lives.

Since taking up my post as Children's Commissioner, I have engaged with a million children, primarily through my large-scale surveys of children. On the 8th of May, I launched my biggest survey yet, *The Big Future*, which aims to hear from another million children. To find out what it is like to be a child today, what changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like, now and in the future.

I know that the Committee's work will touch on many issues of direct relevance to children and young people. Children have a unique perspective on the rights and freedoms that shape their lives, and I would be delighted to share what I am hearing from them as the Committee begins its work under your chairmanship.

I wish you every success in the role and look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner