



# Scotland recommendations

**Bereavement**  
is everyone's  
business



## Key recommendation:

- Scottish Government must commit to developing a new, cross-departmental bereavement strategy that recognises **support following bereavement as a human right**
- Real opportunity to influence the development of the new Scottish Human Rights Act
- Understand what a human right to bereavement support is and how it relates to the 'right to health'
- Influence policy development, especially the creation of the new National Care Service and the Palliative and End of Life Strategy
- Importance of developing a whole of life bereavement strategy.



Key recommendation:

How can we make sure that people at all stages of life are supported through bereavement?

Key recommendation • All Scottish education establishments must have a bereavement policy, and provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about coping with death and bereavement as part of life

- Real opportunity to build on the excellent work undertaken by the National Childhood Bereavement Project and to build on the recommendations of the report **'Growing Up Grieving.'**

Key recommendation:

How can inequalities in bereavement support be addressed for ethnic minority communities in Scotland?

Key recommendation :

- Scottish Government must invest 79p per person in the population for transforming bereavement services over the next five years, with particular focus on better supporting Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities, those experiencing financial hardship and others who are poorly served
  - Challenge of ensuring cost of living responses, the work of Social Security Scotland all build on a public health approach to bereavement support.



Charter launched in April 2020  
along with Guidance notes updated  
every year

## A Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland



### A Bereavement Charter for Children and Adults in Scotland

This Charter provides a set of statements which describe how in Scotland we can support a person or a group of people experiencing bereavement. Good bereavement care is a human right. This Charter is underpinned by a desire to make sure that in Scotland, we can do all that we can to support people who might be experiencing difficulties following the death of someone they know or somebody in their community. It is the responsibility of everyone within Scotland to ensure that this is achieved. These are our statements:

#### IN SCOTLAND, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN BEREAVED SHOULD:

- be treated with compassion, empathy and kindness
- have their wishes, choices and beliefs listened to, considered and respected by all

#### SCOTLAND SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE:

- grief, bereavement and death are recognised as a natural part of life
- there is an open culture which is supportive of people having the opportunity to grieve
- accessing support (including emotional, practical, financial, social, and spiritual) is seen as a right
- efforts are made to ensure that adequate bereavement support is accessible for everyone
- people have space and time to grieve
- it is recognised that bereavement might affect all aspects of a person's life (e.g. relationships, school, workplace)

#### IN SCOTLAND, PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN BEREAVED, WHICH MEANS THAT:

- people's needs and grief reactions are recognised and acknowledged as being different at different times
- grief and bereavement can begin before death and can be lifelong
- people who have been bereaved should feel supported to talk about the person who has died if they wish to
- bereavement and grieving can be experienced by the whole community and not just by individuals
- there is help to know where to refer or signpost people to for additional support

The Charter and additional information can be found at  
[www.scottishcare.org/bereavement](http://www.scottishcare.org/bereavement)





Continuous promotion and development since launch through webinars, charter mark, animations, Guidance, awareness sessions, influencing businesses and policy.



- [https://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/bereavement\\_charter/](https://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/bereavement_charter/)

Time to build on the  
positive energy and  
commitment.



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