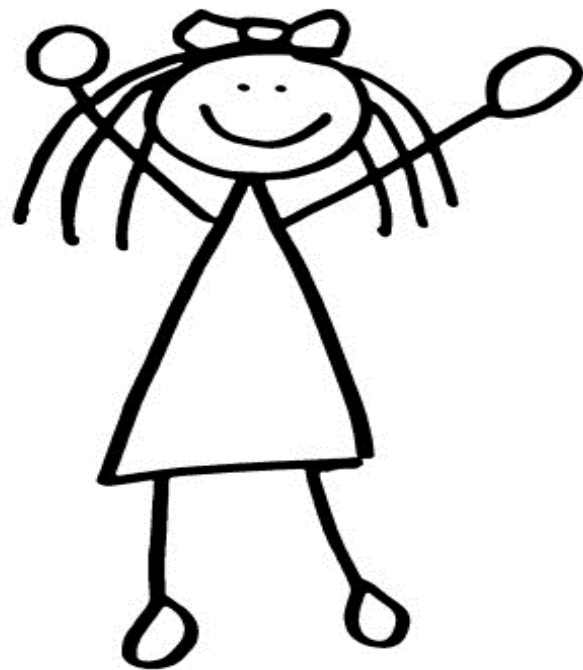




Improving Justice in
Child Contact

The weave of the
tapestry: connecting
children's and women's
rights in life and policy

Dr Marsha Scott (CEO, Scottish Women's Aid)



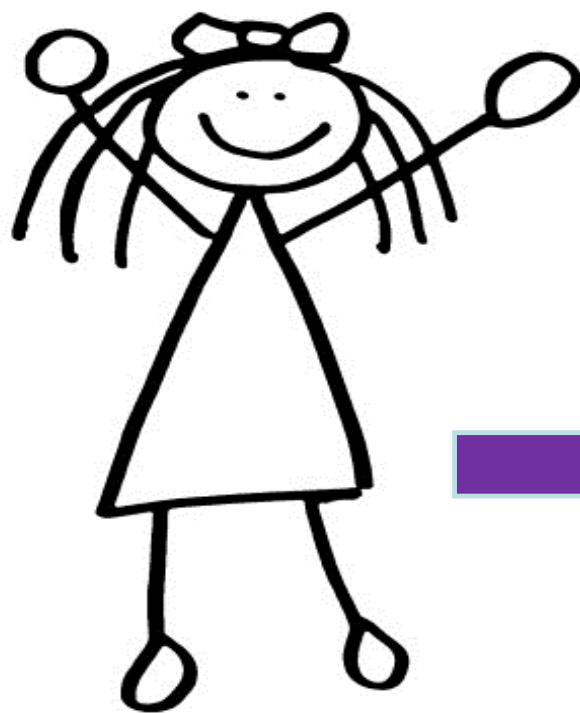
**Human
Rights =
space for
action**



 scottish
women's
aid

**Inequality = *Constraints* on
children's and women's spaces
and spheres for action; poverty of
power, income, safety**





Reality for ALL
women and children
(and some men):
*Constrained space
for action.*



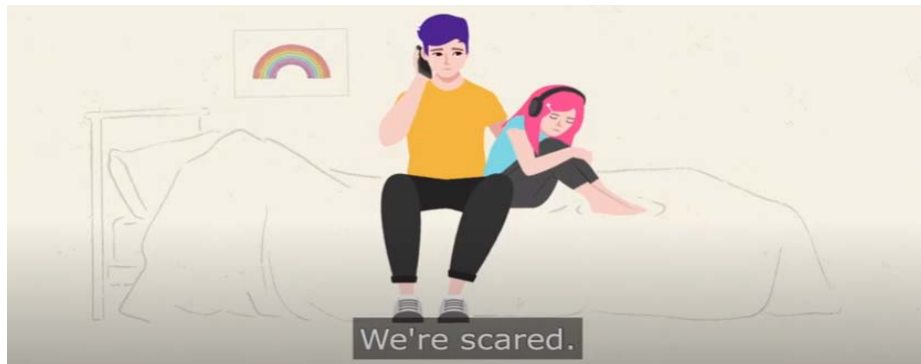
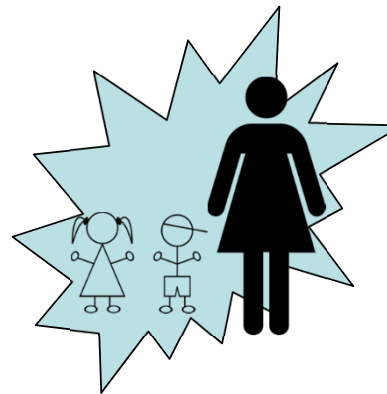
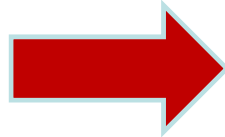
Applying a human rights lens: the *causal story*

- » Women's inequality is the cause and consequence of violence against women [including domestic abuse]
- » Children's human rights, like their mothers', cannot be realised in a patriarchal system
- » Children treated as “property” in our systems (child contact) and their mothers as servants of the patriarchal family



Safe place to live?
Food on the table?
Lawyer? Protection
order? Get to job? Child
care? Get deported?
Leave everything
behind? Bring the dog?

**Constrained space for
action. Then add domestic
abuse.**



Art from a child in refuge; separation \neq safety



Children's & women's lives are woven together

- » Successful policy advocacy and campaigns require a shared lens.
- » Joint children's rights and women's rights campaigns are powerful and creative.



No more important work...





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