



## Introduction

1. As the largest charity supporting people affected by crime across Scotland through the provision of practical help, emotional support and essential information Victim Support Scotland (VSS) welcomes the call for evidence by the Equalities and Human Rights Committee on the **Historical Sexual Offences (Pardons and Disregards) (Scotland) Bill**.

## Policy

2. VSS acknowledges Scots criminal law historically discriminated against consensual same-sex sexual activity between men.
3. We support the primary objective of the Bill to redress any lingering discriminatory effects legislation has had on men convicted under these laws and the granting of an automatic pardon.
4. We are content the proposed mechanism for such criminal convictions to be disregarded will be on application of the convicted person to the Scottish Government.

**ENDS**