**Colleagues, friends and fellow activists I Have a Dream**

Some say I rant, that I am vexatious andam anti-establishment.

I should be delighted and even honoured to have these labels attached to me because I must be doing something right. I am touching nerves and have been doing so for the past sixteen years in relation to our most marginalised and discriminated against community in Scotland. And I will continue to do so for as long as there is life in me.

Bea Green, Kindertransportee said 'Social courage means taking responsibility not just for yourself in society, but also for others.'

You will have heard of the Holocaust and of Holocaust Memorial Day which takes place each year on the 27 January. Themes in recent years which have inspired people to take action have included "One Person can Make a Difference" (2006)" Stand up to hatred" (2009) "Speak Up, Speak Out" (2012) and "Don't Stand By" (2016)

Martin Luther King Jnr. was one individual who put these in to action. I have a dream is perhaps his most famous speech but I have a dream too and much of it is expressed in another of Martin Luther King's speeches **On White Moderates and Progressives “Letter from a Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963. In it he says:**

“I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen’s Counciler or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to ‘order’ than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: ‘I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action’; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man’s freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a ‘more convenient season.’ Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

We should all have been aware of the discriminatory practices towards this community and their marginalisation. It has been going on for decades, even centuries! At the beginning of the 21 Century the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Scottish Parliament held an Inquiry in to this matter. and since then there have been further inquiries, strategies, reports, research, campaigns. We have had the United Nations, Council of Europe, Amnesty International, BEMIS, SHRC, the EHRC and many others actively involved. The questions that we must all ask of ourselves is why hasn't any meaningful action been taken by the Scottish Government and our public bodies that would have impacted positively on this community? Why have the regulatory bodies been so ineffective? What have our professional bodies, researchers and others being doing to ameliorate this most unacceptable situation? What action if any have you taken to address these discriminatory practices?

I have a dream and my dream is simple and that is that people like you here today will leave your comfort zone and work for change and justice and not be content to allow what the Scottish Human Rights Commission called the last bastion of respectable racism to continue. Sleep well!