

## **SUBMISSION FROM MARCO ESPOSITO**

1. My name is Marco Esposito; I am 39 years of age and was diagnosed with asperger's syndrome in 2009.
2. While I am very relieved to know about my condition, I feel isolated because of the lack of support for myself and others who suffers from autism spectrum disorders (ASD).
3. My life has been very difficult and if it was not for the support of my family I don't know where I would be.
4. During my years at school I was bullied both in the classroom and in the playground. Obviously I was unable to socialise, learn the "rules" because of this I was victimised and tormented. I left school with no qualifications which made me feel inadequate. I hoped to find employment and improve myself by attending night school. Unfortunately it wasn't to be, because the little self esteem I had was quickly destroyed, after which it was a downward spiral.
5. My working life has been disastrous. I have been bullied, victimised, harassed and ignored by work colleagues and management.
6. I know if support had been given to me as a child I would have made something of my life. I am not lazy and want to work.
7. I feel it is imperative that the Autism (Scotland) Bill is passed because ASD sufferers across the spectrum need practical and psychological help from health, social work and others to allow them to cope with the challenges their ASD presents to their daily living.

Marco Esposito  
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