

SUBMISSION FROM CONNOR

1. Hi, my name is Connor, I am 14 years old and I have asperger's syndrome, which is a mild form of autism. When I was young you might have said I was very strange, as I somehow did not fit in with my classmates. I was ok when I was in nursery and my early years of primary school. But it soon became a living nightmare in the later years of primary school. Classmates picked me on, I was called names like "retard", "gayboy", "weirdo", "fatty"... must my list go on? Anyway I would do things that my classmates and teachers couldn't understand; I would strongly react to something, so little to them, when it has constantly happened to me. When I got into secondary school, my pain worsened, my friends (the ones that could somehow tolerated me) moved somewhere else, so I was alone. I tried to make new friends but my old bullies from primary school told them the things that had happened in primary school about me, and they even exaggerated it! I was a loner, a social outcast. When I hit second year, a beam of light seemed to have opened, and I found the sanctuary of the specialist base I attend. They helped me to understand what I have and helped me to make friends and to control my strong reactions to little things. I met other people just like me, and I didn't feel like I was alone. I even managed to turn a strong rival of mine into a good friend thanks to them! The teachers understood me. My classmates don't bother me anymore. The base even helped people who are bullied but they don't have autism and they feel happier as am I, thanks to the base. I am now in the third year and I am studying to get into university to become a marine biologist. I also personally feel that the Autism (Scotland) Bill must be issued, as I don't want anyone to go through the same hell as I did and I wish that they get the same sanctuary as I also did. And I also wish for them to be diagnosed as early as possible. The autism bill needs to be issued!

Connor
8 October 2010