

SCOTLAND BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO MAKE PERIOD PRODUCTS FREE FOR ALL

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Rights & Welfare of Women - Schemes & their Performance, Mechanisms, Laws Institutions and Bodies

Representational image of menstrual cups | Photo Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

A law has taken effect in Scotland to ensure period products are available free of charge to anyone who needs them.

The Scottish government said it became the first in the world to legally protect the right to access free period products when its Period Products Act came into force Monday.

Today the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 comes into effect.

This means local authorities and education providers have a legal duty to make free period products available to anyone who needs them.

What we're doing to support pic.twitter.com/qcli0alsdl

Under the new law, schools, colleges and universities as well as local government bodies must make a range of period products available for free in their bathrooms. The Scottish government already invested millions of pounds since 2017 to fund free period products in educational institutions, but the law makes it a legal requirement.

A mobile phone app also helps people find the nearest place — such as the local library or community center — where they can pick up period products.

“Providing access to free period products is fundamental to equality and dignity, and removes the financial barriers to accessing them,” Scottish Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said.

“This is more important than ever at a time when people are making difficult choices due to the cost of living crisis and we never want anyone to be in a position where they cannot access period products,” she added.

The bill, which was passed unanimously in 2020, was introduced by Scottish Parliament lawmaker Monica Lennon, who had campaigned against “period poverty” — when someone who needs sanitary products can’t afford them.

The Scottish government said its move was world-leading, with countries including South Korea and New Zealand taking similar approaches.

[Our code of editorial values](#)

END

Downloaded from [crackIAS.com](https://www.crackias.com)

© Zuccess App by crackIAS.com