# Justice system under fire after Glasgow teen attacker avoids custody despite serious assault



Abbie Jarvis, a 14-year-old girl with autism, was attacked in October 2022 at a skatepark in Drumchapel, Glasgow, leaving her unconscious and in need of hospital treatment for several days. The incident has sparked outrage following the recent sentencing of her 16-year-old attacker, who, after being convicted of multiple assaults against Abbie and other children, was referred back to the children's reporter instead of receiving a custodial sentence.

Angela Jarvis, Abbie’s mother, expressed her frustration with the justice system, believing it has failed to protect her daughter and other potential victims. Speaking to the Daily Record, Angela shared a harrowing image of her daughter in the hospital as a stark reminder of the violence Abbie endured. "It's clear that this is a very dangerous individual and without a custodial sentence or other serious consequences, I fear she will only graduate into a more serious violent offender," Angela said, emphasising the need for psychological intervention for the attacker in a secure environment.

On the night of the attack, Abbie was lured to the skatepark under false pretences, where she was subjected to multiple blows and kicks by her assailant. Witnesses recorded the incident, which subsequently circulated on social media. Abbie sustained a deep gash to her head that required medical attention and has since been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), severely affecting her ability to leave the house or find peace in her daily life.

The case highlights broader concerns about youth violence in Scotland. Angela pointed out that despite the serious nature of the attack, her daughter's assailant faced minimal consequences. "We went through nearly three years of waiting for justice but we're back to where we started because this girl was referred to the children's reporter after she was arrested," she noted.

Former Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill commented on the situation, acknowledging the challenges faced by the justice system when dealing with young offenders. He indicated that while there is a compelling rationale for avoiding incarceration—given the risk of fostering further criminal behaviour in young offenders—there also exists a critical need for effective intervention strategies. "It's time the authorities got their heads together and took action to ensure that the care that is necessary... is carried out," MacAskill stated, reflecting on the lack of a cohesive response from the authorities.

The Daily Record has been actively promoting the "Our Kids ... Our Future" campaign, which aims to address youth violence and ensure safe spaces for young people in communities. The campaign has also called for social media platforms to take greater responsibility for the material they host, especially concerning violent incidents involving youths.

As Abbie continues to cope with the aftermath of her attack, her mother expresses concerns about the message it sends to both young offenders and their victims. "Unless you've murdered them, you'll walk free," Angela lamented, underscoring her fear that the justice system may inadvertently encourage a culture of violence among minors.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mum-autistic-girl-beaten-unconscious-28271873> - This article reports on Abbie Jarvis, a 12-year-old autistic girl from Glasgow, who was attacked in October 2022 at a park in Drumchapel, leaving her unconscious and hospitalized for two days. The incident has sparked outrage following the sentencing of her 13-year-old attacker, who was referred to the children's reporter instead of receiving a custodial sentence.
2. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mums-girls-savagely-filmed-bullies-29110396> - This piece highlights the frustration of Angela Jarvis, Abbie's mother, with the justice system, as she believes it has failed to protect her daughter and other potential victims. Angela shared a harrowing image of her daughter in the hospital as a stark reminder of the violence Abbie endured.
3. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mums-girls-who-suffered-horrific-31092157> - This article details the attack on Abbie, who was lured to the skatepark under false pretenses, where she was subjected to multiple blows and kicks by her assailant. Witnesses recorded the incident, which subsequently circulated on social media. Abbie sustained a deep gash to her head that required medical attention and has since been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), severely affecting her ability to leave the house or find peace in her daily life.
4. <https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/23068714.abbies-petition-accepted-consideration-scottish-parliament-glasgow-attack/> - This article discusses the broader concerns about youth violence in Scotland, highlighting that despite the serious nature of the attack, Abbie's assailant faced minimal consequences. Angela Jarvis points out that after nearly three years of waiting for justice, they are back to where they started because the girl was referred to the children's reporter after she was arrested.
5. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/ex-rangers-stars-daughter-fears-29452743> - This piece features former Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill commenting on the situation, acknowledging the challenges faced by the justice system when dealing with young offenders. He indicated that while there is a compelling rationale for avoiding incarceration—given the risk of fostering further criminal behaviour in young offenders—there also exists a critical need for effective intervention strategies.
6. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mum-autistic-girl-glasgow-attack-park-28192095> - This article reports on the Daily Record's 'Our Kids ... Our Future' campaign, which aims to address youth violence and ensure safe spaces for young people in communities. The campaign has also called for social media platforms to take greater responsibility for the material they host, especially concerning violent incidents involving youths.
7. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/she-away-it-mum-autistic-35170804> - Please view link - unable to able to access data