

The Rights of the Child – An Overview

The Scottish Government aim to make Scotland the best place in the world for a child to grow up. Recognising, respecting and promoting the rights of children and young people is essential to achieving this.

This is supported by

- Implementing the UNCRC across Scotland and reporting on progress to Parliament
- Using the Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) to ensure that policies, measures and legislation protect and promote the wellbeing of children and young people

The guide pictured below has been developed to provide information for children and young people on their rights.



Children's rights <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00508949.pdf>

Further information on child and young people's rights can be found at the Children's and Young People's Commissioner Scotland website
<https://www.cypcs.org.uk/rights/uncrc/articles>

Overview of children rights summarised in child friendly language

The full details of each article can be found at

<https://www.cypcs.org.uk/rights/uncrc/full-uncrc>

The Convention operates on 4 guiding principles:

- **non-discrimination;**
- **right to life, survival, and development;**
- **doing what is in the best interest of the child;**
- **and meaningfully engaging children and youth.**

Article 1 - Everyone under 18 has all of these rights.

Article 2 - You have the right to protection against discrimination. This means that nobody can treat you badly because of your colour, sex or religion, if you speak another language, have a disability, or are rich or poor.

Article 3 - All adults should always do what is best for you.

Article 4 - You have the right to have your rights made a reality by the government.

Article 5 - You have the right to be given guidance by your parents and family.

Article 6 - You have the right to life.

Article 7 - You have the right to have a name and a nationality.

Article 8 - You have the right to an identity.

Article 9 - You have the right to live with your parents, unless it is bad for you.

Article 10 - If you and your parents are living in separate countries, you have the right to get back together and live in the same place.

Article 11 - You should not be kidnapped.

Article 12 - You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 13 - You have the right to find out things and say what you think, through making art, speaking and writing, unless it breaks the rights of others.

Article 14 - You have the right to think what you like and be whatever religion you want to be, with your parents' guidance.

Article 15 - You have the right to be with friends and join or set up clubs, unless this breaks the rights of others.

Article 16 - You have the right to a private life. For instance, you can keep a diary that other people are not allowed to see.

Article 17 - You have the right to collect information from the media – radios, newspapers, television, etc. – from all around the world. You should also be protected from information that could harm you.

Article 18 - You have the right to be brought up by your parents, if possible.

Article 19 - You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

Article 20 - You have the right to special protection and help if you can't live with your parents.

Article 21 - You have the right to have the best care for you if you are adopted or fostered or living in care.

Article 22 - You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee. A refugee is someone who has had to leave their country because it is not safe for them to live there.

Article 23 - If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education to help you develop and lead a full life.

Article 24 - You have a right to the best health possible and to medical care and to information that will help you to stay well.

Article 25 - You have the right to have your living arrangements checked regularly if you have to be looked after away from home.

Article 26 - You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27 - You have the right to a good enough standard of living. This means you should have food, clothes and a place to live.

Article 28 - You have the right to education.

Article 29 - You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.

Article 30 - If you come from a minority group, because of your race, religion or language, you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practice your own religion, and use your own language.

Article 31 - You have the right to play and relax by doing things like sports, music and drama.

Article 32 - You have the right to protection from work that is bad for your health or education.

Article 33 - You have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs.

Article 34 - You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse.

Article 35 - No one is allowed to kidnap you or sell you.

Article 36 - You have the right to protection from of any other kind of exploitation.

Article 37 - You have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way.

Article 38 - You have a right to protection in times of war. If you are under 15, you should never have to be in an army or take part in a battle.

Article 39 - You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected, or badly treated.

Article 40 - You have the right to help in defending yourself if you are accused of breaking the law.

Article 41 - You have the right to any rights in laws in your country or internationally that give you better rights than these.

Article 42 - All adults and children should know about this convention. You have a right to learn about your rights and adults should learn about them too.

Articles 43 – 54 are about how governments and international organisations will work to support children's rights.