



# CHAPTER 1



## MAKING CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS REAL

STATE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
IN SCOTLAND 2019

### WHAT DID THE COMMITTEE SAY?

The Committee said it's important that children's human rights are made part of the law in Scotland. This is called 'incorporation'. Incorporation is a big word but it's important for children to know about it. Incorporating the UNCRC would mean that Scottish Government would always have to respect children's human rights when running the country. It would mean that children's human rights would need to be respected in schools and hospitals, by the police, and even by people who make decisions about roads, parks and the environment. Incorporation would also mean that children can complain and make sure something is done if their rights haven't been respected.

### WHAT IS THIS CHAPTER ABOUT?

This chapter looks at what governments need to do to make rights real for children, so that all children experience their rights all of the time..

### WHAT HAS SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DONE?

Scottish Government asked children, parents, charities and other people what they thought about making the UNCRC part of the law in Scotland. Most of them said they thought it was a good idea. Scottish Government made a promise to incorporate the UNCRC by May 2021.



## WHAT DO CHILDREN THINK?

Children feel that it's very important for children's human rights to be part of the law in Scotland.

"I think you should make children's rights law because it will keep a lot more children safe."

"I think that incorporating children's rights is important because some people don't even know what the UNCRC is."

## WHAT DOES TOGETHER THINK?

It's really important to make children's human rights part of the law.

Together has been trying to make this happen for a long time!

## WHAT'S NEXT?

To incorporate the UNCRC, Scottish Government needs to write a new law and get members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) to agree on it.

MSPs can take a long time to agree on new laws, so the Scottish Government needs to show it to the MSPs very soon if it is to pass before May 2021.



## WHAT ELSE IS TALKED ABOUT IN THIS CHAPTER?

The Chapter also looks at other things Scottish Government should do, including:

- ✓ Creating a big 'action plan' to tell children what it's going to do to make sure they have their rights
- ✓ Making sure enough money is spent on children where it helps the most
- ✓ Making sure everyone is working together to do what's best for children

If you want to see the full chapter, you can find this [here](#).