



# INTRODUCTION

STATE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN SCOTLAND 2019

## WELCOME!

Welcome to our 2019 State of Children's Rights Report! It looks at how well children's human rights are being protected in Scotland and what more needs to be done.

## WHAT IS THE UNCRC?

The report is all about children's human rights, especially the rights that are in the UNCRC. UNCRC stands for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is a list of all the rights that children have. Human rights are based on things like dignity, fairness and respect. Every child is born with human rights.

The UNCRC includes rights to health, education, family life, and protection from being hurt. The UNCRC also says some groups of children need special protection, like disabled children or children who have moved to another country to escape war.

The United Kingdom (including Scotland) signed up to the UNCRC in 1990, making a promise to respect children's human rights.

There are also other lists like the UNCRC that set out human rights for groups of people, such as disabled people or girls and women. Children have rights under these too!



# WHO MAKES SURE CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED?

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is a group of adults who know a lot about children's human rights. We call this the Committee for short. The Committee makes sure that governments (the people who run the country) stick to their promise to respect children's human rights as written in the UNCRC.

Every few years, the Committee asks governments to explain what they are doing to make sure children's human rights are respected in their country. Governments explain this in a report. The Committee then gives governments suggestions on what they can improve to make children's lives better.

The last time the Committee made suggestions to the UK was in 2016. It will do this again in 2022.



## WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?

This report looks at what the Committee suggested to the UK (including Scotland) in 2016. It looks at what the Committee said the UK and Scotland should do to make things better for children. The report thinks about whether these things have been done - we write about where things have got better and where more needs to be done. Our discoveries are grouped in eight chapters, each related to different children's rights. There is a sheet for each chapter - have a read of these if you want to find out more! If you want to see the full report you can find it [here](#).

What children say about their rights is really important. It helps adults understand whether children's human rights are being respected and what adults could be doing better. We've included children's thoughts and opinions all through the report.

## WHO WROTE THIS REPORT?

This report was written by Together (the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights). Together is a charity that works to make sure children's human rights are protected. We also got a lot of help from other people and charities to write the report. Lots of these people had talked with children about their rights and listened to what they had to say.

