



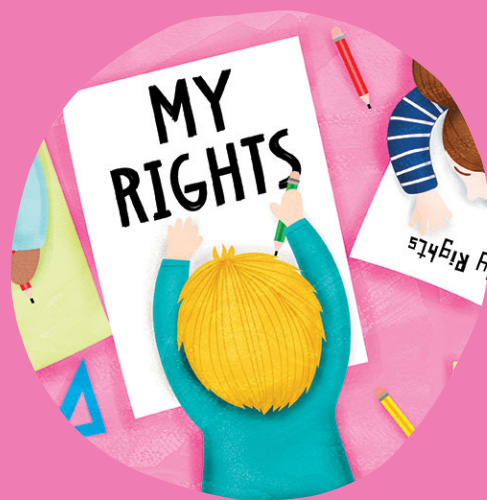
THE RIGHTS OF BLACK AND ETHNIC MINORITY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL TASKFORCE 2021

WELCOME!

Everyone has **human rights**. These are based on things like dignity, fairness and respect. We are born with these rights and they can't be taken away.

Countries can promise to respect people's human rights by signing **special agreements**. They can make sure they keep this promise by changing their laws and making sure everyone's human rights are protected.



WHAT IS THIS LEAFLET ABOUT?

The Scottish Government wants to write a **new human rights law for Scotland**. A law is a rule. It tells people what they can and can't do. Sometimes a law says that you have to do something.

The new law would put all your human rights directly into Scotland's law. This is sometimes called '**incorporation**'. The new law would include the rights of black and ethnic minority children and young people, the right to a healthy environment, the right to food, the right to housing, the right to health and all the other rights you have.

The Scottish Government has asked a group of experts to help with the new law. This group is called the **National Taskforce** and they want to know what you think!

This leaflet will help you get ready to tell the National Taskforce what you think about the idea for a new human rights law. It focuses on the **rights of black and ethnic minority children and young people**.

THE RIGHTS OF BLACK AND ETHNIC MINORITY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Every child and young person has human rights. Some children and young people are **more vulnerable** than others and **need extra protection**. This includes black and ethnic minority children and young people. Being from an ethnic minority means your race, skin colour, nationality, religion or culture is different from most people living in a country.

Countries have signed **special agreements** to protect vulnerable people. The agreements say what countries must do to make sure these people have the same rights as everybody else. The rights of black and ethnic minority people are protected in an agreement called the United Nations **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination** (or 'ICERD' for short).

The ICERD says that black and ethnic minority children and young people have the same rights as others. They might need some extra help to get them. The ICERD says that education is very important. It says:

- Every child should get a **good education**. Sometimes children will need extra help – for example if they speak another language.
- Schools should help you **learn about other cultures** and everyone should be **treated fairly**.
- The government should ask ethnic minority communities **what is important about their identity, culture and history** and use this to help children learn.

The ICERD is a **plan to stop racism** and encourage people to **understand and celebrate each other's differences**.

Racism means a person is treated differently or badly because of where they are from or how they look. For example, because of the colour of their skin.

WHAT IF ADULTS DON'T RESPECT MY RIGHTS?

There are some laws in Scotland to help black and ethnic minority children and young people, but the ICERD is not fully part of the law. This can make it difficult for black and ethnic minority children and young people to challenge things if their rights are not respected.

The new human rights law could help to change this by making the ICERD part of the law in Scotland.



WHAT WOULD MAKING IT PART OF THE LAW MEAN?

By making the ICERD part of the law, Scotland would say to everyone that the rights of black and ethnic minority children and young people are very important.

If the ICERD is made part of the law, it would mean that the Scottish Government **has to follow it**. For example, it would have to:

- Make sure black and ethnic minority children are **treated fairly** and not discriminated against. This might mean changing the law and other rules.
- Support **understanding** and **friendship**.
- Give children **extra help to learn and go to school** if they need it.
- Help children **learn about different ethnicities and cultures**.
- **Collect good information** to check if black and ethnic minority people's rights are being respected, and change things if needed.



If the Scottish Government doesn't respect these rights, then you would be able to complain and **have something done about it**. This might mean asking a judge to decide if they have broken the law. The judge could ask them to change if they are not following the ICERD.

You would also be able to complain if public bodies haven't respected your rights. Public bodies are organisations like schools, health services, councils and the police. They make decisions that affect you.



You can send drawings, paintings, poems or anything you'd like to the **National Taskforce** to say what you think. You can ask someone to help you if you need it. You can do this until the **31st January 2021**.

Their email address is **allourrightsinalaw@gmail.com**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The National Taskforce wants to hear what you think about a new human rights law. **What you think is really important** - it will help adults understand if your human rights are being respected and what adults could be doing better.

- Do you feel like your rights are always respected?
- How would a new human rights law help you, your family and your community?
- What needs to be in the new law?
- Is there anything else that needs to happen to protect your rights?
- What extra help do you think black and ethnic minority children and young people might need if their rights are not respected?