

Welcome to our 2022 State of Children's Rights case files!

We've been top detectives and investigated how well children's rights are being protected in Scotland. These are our case files. They show what's going well and what more needs to be done.

Let's begin by looking at what children's rights are!

## What are children's rights?

Every child is born with human rights. These are things every child needs to grow up happy, healthy and safe.

Children have lots of rights, for example:

- The right to learn and go to school
- The right to have a say and be listened to
- The right to a safe home
- The right to good food and clean water
- The right to play
- The right to be protected from harm

Countries around the world made a promise to protect children's rights. This included the United Kingdom. The countries wrote their promise down. It's called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (or 'UNCRC' for short).



## What was our investigation about?

We looked at what the adults around you should be doing to make sure your rights are protected all of the time.

We've grouped the evidence we found into eight case files. These include real-life examples of things that have worked well. What children say is really important, so we've included what you've said!

We hope our case files help you learn more about your rights and know when adults aren't doing enough. We hope the examples can be shared with adults, to help them do better!

## Making children's rights part of the law!

The Scottish Government want to make children's rights part of the law.

They wrote a bill to help make this happen.

### What is a bill?

A bill is a document that could become a law.

Head over to the next page to find out what this will mean for you when the UNCRC Bill becomes a law!

## What will happen when the UNCRC Bill becomes a law?

- The Scottish Government will always have to respect children's rights when running the country.
- Children's rights will always need to be respected in schools and hospitals, by the police, and even by people who make decisions about roads, parks and the environment.
- Children can complain to a judge if their rights aren't being protected and have something done about it.
- The Scottish Government will have to write a report every year that says what they're doing to protect children's rights.

The UNCRC Bill is not part of the law yet. Before this can happen, the Scottish Government need to make a few changes. The UNCRC Bill then needs to pass a vote in the Scottish Parliament. Scotland needs to start getting ready for the new law. Our case files look at some of the things adults in the Scottish Government, local councils, schools, police and other organisations should start doing to get ready.



Detective Naomi

### Who wrote these case files?

These case files were written by the very best detectives from Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights). Together is a charity that works to make sure children's rights are protected.

We got a lot of help from other charities who were very happy to share their promising practice casefiles with us. This really helped us to write the report!



Detective Maria



Detective Mercy



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