



## Welcome back!

What's in the second edition of Rail Mail:

- Introduction to the UN's Concluding Observations.
- Special event: Register your interest below for Together's very own parliamentary reception.
- We need your help spreading the word about our campaign!

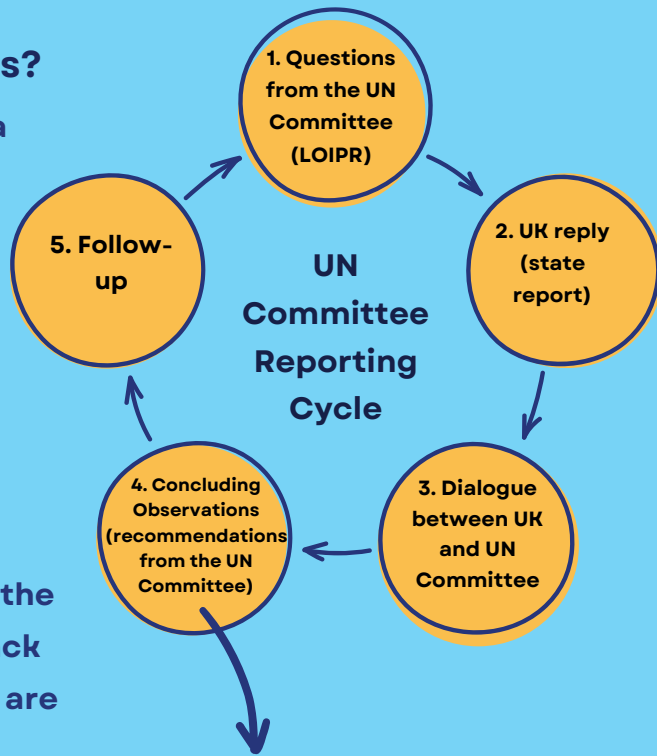


## Concluding Observations: the UN's to-do list

The UN's 'Concluding Observations' are central to Together's #RightsOnTrack campaign – but what are they? Why are they important? And how can child rights defenders use them in their work?

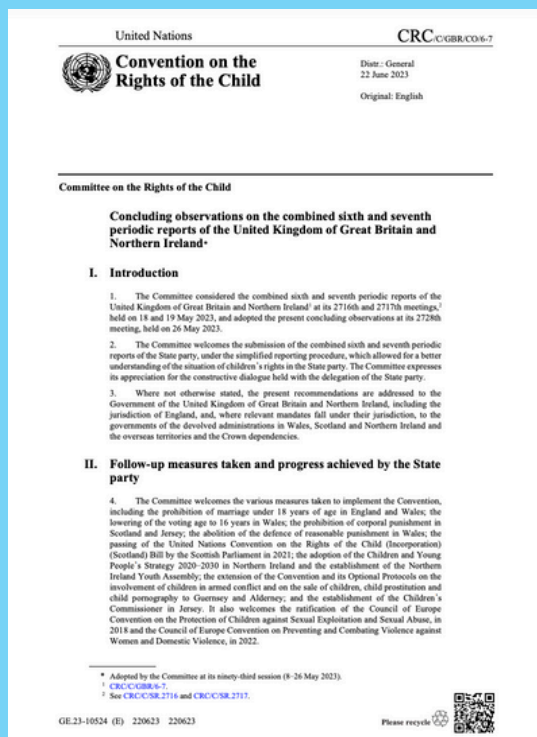
### What are the Concluding Observations?

The Concluding Observations are essentially a 'report card' for how well a country is putting children's rights into practice. They are issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ('UN Committee') after it has conducted a review of a country's children's rights record. That process involves hearing evidence from children, young people, organisations (including Together) and government officials. The primary purpose of the Concluding Observations is to provide feedback and guidance to the country on how well they are fulfilling their obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



### Why are the Concluding Observations Important?

The Concluding Observations are important as they convey a powerful message from the UN regarding areas where countries need to improve their adherence to children's rights standards. In Scotland, strong Concluding Observations in 2016 were followed by notable progress, such as the move to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law, the ban on physical punishment of children, and an initial increase in the age of criminal responsibility.



### What do the 2023 Concluding Observations for Scotland say?

In June 2023, the UN Committee issued almost 200 recommendations to the UK and Scottish Government drawing upon evidence from children, young people and Together members. Children and young people from #TeamScotlandUN played a crucial role supported by Together, Children's Parliament, the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. The Concluding Observations identified serious concerns around child poverty, non-discrimination, protection from abuse, the care system, mental health, asylum seekers, refugee and migrant children, and the child justice system.



Together launched a child friendly version of the Concluding Observations to support children and young people to learn more about their rights and what the Scottish Government should be doing to protect their rights. [Find the resource here.](#)

### How can you use the Concluding Observations in your work?

The Concluding Observations can help bring the weight of the UN and international human rights law into your work in Scotland. They can help provide evidence and support for your campaigns. They can help you to prioritise advocacy efforts, zone in on areas where government efforts are lacking or where improvements are needed according to the UN Committee. You can also use them as a tool for engaging with government, policy-makers and other duty bearers to hold them accountable for putting the recommendations into practice.

Look out for the next edition of Rail Mail where we will dive deeper into the 2023 recommendations. We'll be looking at some of the specific recommendations and also what things were missed out and might need extra attention.

## Register your interest! The UN's 'to do list' for child rights in Scotland

Together is hosting a parliamentary reception, sponsored by Martin Whitfield MSP, to celebrate the countdown to incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law.

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 is a historic piece of legislation which we hope will be a powerful tool to help keep children's #RightsOnTrack as Scotland takes forward the UN Committee's Concluding Observations.

[Register your interest here!](#)



## We need your help!

To properly monitor what's happening to keep children's #RightsOnTrack we need everyone on board - help us to spread this campaign across Scotland and tell children and young people and duty bearers that monitoring starts now!

We ask you to please:

- Spread the word: please share the #RightsOnTrack campaign and our [sign-up link](#) to anyone you think might be interested. Feel free to share on twitter and social media and don't forget to use #RightsOnTrack tag!
- Stay tuned for our next update as we continue our journey towards a Scotland where children's rights are fully protected, respected and fulfilled!