



Rights of the Child UK
Working together to bring children's rights into law

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Rights of the Child UK (ROCK) Conference 2024 [#RightsChild2024](#)



17th September 2024

9:30am - 4:00pm

City Arts Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland

The Rights of the Child UK (ROCK) Conference 2024 #RightsChild2024

Welcome to the Rights of the Child UK Conference 2024 where we will explore how the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is being progressed across the UK jurisdictions and Jersey. Speakers and delegates will explore recent developments and assess opportunities to further embed the UNCRC into law, policy and practice.

Through an excellent line-up of speakers, and discussions throughout the day, the conference aims to:

- Highlight the importance of strengthening children’s human rights protections in domestic legislation, at both devolved and UK-wide levels.
- Provide an update on developments across the UK and internationally, and allow for learning between jurisdictions.
- Re-engage supporters in efforts to strengthen domestic legal frameworks to protect and progress UNCRC implementation.
- Build networks and partnerships between ROCK members to support proactive advocacy in support of children’s human rights in law.

Delegates at the conference will be informed about happenings in Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Jersey, as well as international examples.

Today’s venue is City Arts Centre, 2 Market St, Edinburgh, EH1 1DE.



The ROCK conference is hosted by Together (Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights), in partnership with ROCK steering group members: Children’s Rights Alliance for England, Children in Wales, Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group, Children’s Law Centre and UNICEF UK.

We would like to thank Cattanach for their generous funding which has made this year’s conference possible.

The UN's 'to do list' for children's rights

Parts of today's discussion will be framed around the UN's 'to do list' for children's rights. This is a set of recommendations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (known as Concluding Observations). The UN Committee made almost 200 recommendations to the UK and devolved governments across a wide range of issues including child poverty, justice, education, health and play.

- [Access the UN's Concluding Observations by clicking here.](#)
- [Access Together's child-friendly version by clicking here](#) (Scotland focused).

Presentations

The presentations from today's conference will be available online after the event on www.togetherscotland.org.uk

Photographs and recording

We will be taking photos and video today and may use them to promote this and future events on the website, in reports and publications and on social media.

If you do not wish to be included in any photos or videos, please speak to those at registration who will make sure that you are not included, by giving you a sticker for your name badge.

Social media

Please join us in sharing updates from the day with your followers!

Remember to use the hashtag: **#RightsChild2024**

ABOUT ROCK

The 'Rights of the Child UK' (ROCK) is a coalition of voluntary organisations and individuals working together to embed children's human rights into law, policy and practice.



Rights of the Child UK

Working together to bring children's rights into law

Successive governments at a UK and devolved level have asserted their desire to become the best place in the world for children to grow up. The Rights of the Child UK coalition believes this can only be achieved by bringing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into law, bringing the rights enshrined in the Convention within the reach of all children and young people, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Our aims are to:

1. Achieve the active recognition and realisation of children's rights in the UK jurisdictions and Jersey through the incorporation of the UNCRC into law at UK-wide and devolved levels.
2. Identify and act upon opportunities for the incorporation of the UNCRC into law;
3. Work together to maximise the opportunities to strengthen children's rights that are presented by proposals from the UK and devolved governments.

The ROCK steering group is made of up Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights), Children's Rights Alliance England, Children's Law Centre, Children in Wales, Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group, and UNICEF UK.

The current chair is Juliet Harris, Director of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights).

Together

Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) is an alliance of Scottish children's charities that works to improve the awareness, understanding and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



We do this by:

- Promoting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Helping children's organisations to integrate the UNCRC into their work
- Monitoring and reporting on the progress made at a Scottish and UK level

Our growing membership is made up of a range of children's charities, from small local playgroups through to large international charities, alongside individuals, academics and professionals with an interest in children's rights. Together consults widely with its membership through seminars, meetings and other ongoing communications.

Our activities

Some of the activities Together undertakes to improve awareness, understanding and implementation of the UNCRC include:

- Exploring children's experiences of their rights through participatory projects such as the Rights Detectives.
- Publishing an annual State of Children's Rights report to provide a non-government perspective on the extent to which children in Scotland are experiencing their rights enshrined in the UNCRC.
- Submitting consultation responses to the Scottish and UK Governments, to UN treaty bodies including the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the UN Universal Periodic Review
- Publishing a fortnightly newsletter which highlights children's rights news from Scotland, the UK, and internationally as well as providing information on consultations and events.

Website: www.togetherscotland.org.uk

Twitter: @together_sacr

ABOUT THE ROCK STEERING GROUP

Children in Wales



Children in Wales is the national umbrella organisation for organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and their families in Wales. We work closely with Welsh Government and others in Wales to ensure that children's rights are at the forefront of policy and decision making.

To do this we focus on ensuring that children and young people in Wales have a voice, we fight for sustainable and equitable services, advocate for policy changes in Wales and connect and represent the work being undertaken by our membership.

Our membership includes individuals and organisations from the voluntary, statutory and professional sectors. We also work directly with children and young people on a number of projects and have recently started a dedicated membership for our younger audience.

Website: www.childreninwales.org.uk

Twitter: @childreninwales

Children in Wales also hosts an initiative called Young Wales - Cymru Ifanc, funded by Welsh Government. We are about listening to young people & empowering their voices. Our work is built on the ideas of sharing, informing and changing.

We aim to do this by ensuring that young people have opportunities to raise issues that are important to them and to ensure their voices are heard by decision makers, policy officers, Welsh Government officials and Ministers. This work is underpinned by the UNCRC and the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards 'Having a Voice - having a choice'.

Twitter & Instagram: @YoungWalesCIW

Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group

The Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group is a national alliance of nongovernmental and academic agencies, tasked with monitoring and promoting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Wales. The UNCRC Monitoring Group was established in 2002 and since May 2016 has been facilitated by Children in Wales. The Group has worked with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and submitted successive civil society reports to inform UK State Party examinations.

Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group



Grŵp Monitro CCUHP Cymru

The aims of the UNCRC Monitoring Group include to:

- Work together to ensure the effective co-ordination of monitoring of the UNCRC in Wales, including through producing Civil Society shadow reports.
- Monitor the implementation of the UNCRC in Wales.
- Promote the UNCRC, the UN Concluding Observations and recommendations of the Monitoring Group civil report to the UN.
- Work to ensure arrangements are in place for the effective reporting to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child through collaboration between the Welsh Government, children, young people and NGOs working together in this process.
- Promote the participation of children in monitoring and reporting activities.
- Identify opportunities for influencing Welsh and UK Government on implementation of the UNCRC.
- Promote public awareness, particularly of children and young people about the UNCRC.
- Ensure Wales is represented at Wales and UK wide forums and events relating to the UNCRC.

Members of the Monitoring Group include Children in Wales, Barnardo's Cymru, Children's Legal Centre Wales, National Deaf Children's Society Wales, NSPCC Wales, Play Wales, Save the Children Wales, UNICEF, Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People, Children's Commissioner for Wales (observers), Welsh Local Government Association (observers) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Wales (observers).

ABOUT THE ROCK STEERING GROUP

Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE), part of Just for Kids Law



Children's
Rights Alliance
for England

The Children's Rights Alliance for England, part of Just for Kids Law, works with over 100 members to promote children's rights and monitor government implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We believe that human rights are a powerful tool in making life better for children. We fight for children's rights by listening to what they say, carrying out research to understand what children are going through and using the law to challenge those who violate children's rights. We campaign for the people in power to change things for children. And we empower children and those who care about children to push for the changes that they want to see.

We work closely with our equivalent children's rights organisations in other parts of the UK and are part of a global movement of children's rights alliances monitoring implementation of the CRC across the world.

Help us stop children's rights violations - become a member of CRAE. As a member you will:

- Get involved in our work - including through invitations to join campaigns and feed in evidence to our reports.
- Work with us to ensure that UN recommendations are implemented by the UK Government.
- Receive our email bulletin summarising developments in our work and children's rights, including from the UN and Europe.
- Request free hard copies of our publications.
- Be part of a movement to support and promote children's rights.

Website: www.crae.org.uk

Twitter: @CRAE_official

Children's Law Centre

The Children's Law Centre works to protect the rights of all children and young people living in Northern Ireland.

We are a small team of 15 staff, volunteers and a youth advisory panel called youth@clc.



We believe that: **Children's Rights Change Children's Lives**

Activities

- We run a free and confidential legal advice service for children and young people. e.g. we help children and young people with disabilities, special educational needs, mental health problems and homeless young people to get the services they need.
- We advise government on how to make better laws and policies for young people.
- We ask young people how we can improve our advice service.
- We run training, workshops and conferences on children's rights.

Website: www.childrenslawcentre.org.uk

Twitter: @ChildLawCentre

ABOUT THE ROCK STEERING GROUP

UNICEF UK



UNICEF – The United Nations Children’s Fund is a child-rights organisation that was established by the UN in 1946. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to uphold the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and promote the rights and well-being of every child.

Today, more than 15,000 UNICEF staff members work in more than 190 countries, including in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach those most in need. Every day, we work together to create a better world for children.

The United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) is one of 33 UNICEF national committees that work locally to promote and protect the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF UK and UNICEF share a vision to build a better world for every child.

Together, we are committed to:

- Advocating for and create change for children
- Unlocking resources for programmes for children
- Promoting children’s voices

UNICEF has a specific role in providing advice and assistance to governments around the world in matters relating to children’s rights.

Website: www.unicef.org.uk

Twitter: @UNICEF_uk

ABOUT OUR SPONSOR

We would like to thank Cattanach for their generous funding which has made this conference possible.

Cattanach

Cattanach is an independent Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with a focus on supporting early relationships and early childhood.



Experiences during very early childhood have a critical impact on health and wellbeing across the lifespan. Strong and nurturing relationships in the early years matter and parents and carers need good social and emotional support as well as secure finances to enable these relationships to flourish.

We aim to use our endowment to make the case for greater investment and better systems to support families in the early years, with the views and rights of young children and their carers at the heart of our work.

We adopted a new strategy in 2023 in order to maximise our social impact.

Website: www.cattanach.org.uk

Twitter: @CattanachSCIO

PROGRAMME

- 9:30am** *Registration*
- 10:00am** **Welcome and introduction from Chair**
Juliet Harris, Chair of the ROCK Steering Group and Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights)
- 10:10am** **Morning keynote**
Hanna Borg Jónsdóttir, Child Rights Specialist and Programme Director, UNICEF Iceland
- 10:45am** **Reflections on keynote and introduction to concluding observations**
Juliet Harris, Chair of the ROCK Steering Group and Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights)
- 10:55am** *Coffee break*
- 11:20am** **Children’s Commissioners**
Nicola Killean, Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland

Rachel Thomas, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Children’s Commissioner for Wales

Isabelle Sherlock, Senior Policy Advisor, Children’s Commissioner (England)

Alex Tennant, Head of Policy and Participation, NICCY

Sheree Maher, Participation & Engagement Lead, Children’s Commissioner for Jersey
- 12:25pm** *Quick break*
- 12:30pm** **Updates from Governments**
Janet Daby MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Children and Families), UK Government (**video address**)

Michelle Clark, Senior Policy Officer, Children’s Rights Team, Government of Jersey

Welsh Government
- 12:45pm** **Update from Scottish Government**
Natalie Don-Innes MSP, Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise, Scottish Government.

PROGRAMME

1:10pm

Lunch break

2:00pm

Chair's welcome back

Juliet Harris, Chair of the ROCK Steering Group and Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights).

2:05pm

Discussion groups

Questions:

1. What progress has been made to implement the [UN's 'to do list'](#) in your jurisdiction?
2. What is happening in other jurisdictions that you would like to see happen in yours? How can we work together as an alliance to make this happen?
3. How can we work together to influence issues that are reserved to the UK Government?
4. What other action is needed?
5. Something I will do as a result of the ROCK conference is.....

2:55pm

Coffee break

3:05pm

Civil society updates from Child Rights Alliances

Juliet Harris, Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)

Louise King, Director, Children's Rights Alliance for England, part of Just for Kids Law

Paddy Kelly, Centre Director, Children's Law Centre

Sean O'Neill, Policy Director, Children in Wales & Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group

Dragan Nastic, Strategic Lead-UNCRC, UNICEF UK, global update

3:55pm

Closing Remarks from the Chair

Juliet Harris, Chair of the ROCK Steering Group and Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights).

4:00pm

Close

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Juliet Harris

Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)



Juliet is Director of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights). Over the past decade, Juliet has led work to progress the human rights of children across legislation, policy and practice.

She is Vice Chair of the Children's Parliament, a Trustee of the Environmental Rights Centre Scotland and is a founder member of the Observatory of Children's Human Rights Scotland. She sits on numerous Scottish Government Advisory Groups, including the UNCRC Strategic Implementation Board and the Human Rights Bill Advisory Board. She is the Chair of the Rights of the Child UK Coalition (ROCK) and has played an active role on a number of UN Taskforces,

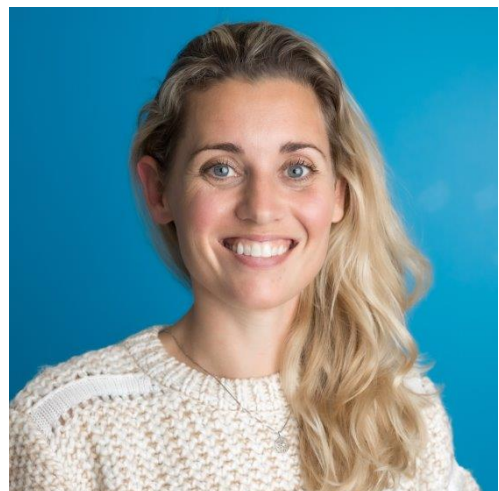
including UN Committee's Day of General Discussion on Children as Human Rights Defenders.

Juliet is a guest lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and her work on children's rights has been published widely.

Hanna Borg Jónsdóttir

Child Rights Specialist and Programme Director, UNICEF Iceland

Hanna Borg Jónsdóttir, born in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland, is an accomplished lawyer and expert in child rights. She holds a Magister Juris degree from the University of Iceland (2012) and an LLM in Human Rights from Queen Mary University of London (2017), where she specialised in children's rights. With extensive experience in the field, she has worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and currently serves as the Programme Director for Child Friendly Cities at UNICEF Iceland, a role she has held since 2020.



BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

In her work at UNICEF, Hanna collaborates closely with 23 municipalities around the country that are currently working on becoming a recognised Child Friendly City. Her work also involves working with the Ministry of Education and Children and she is an active member of various working groups focused on developing action plans for implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Iceland. She is also the author of *Rúnar góði* (2016), a popular children's book that introduces young readers to the UNCRC and promotes children's rights. The book, which is widely used in primary schools, has also become a favorite for parents and children to read together. In addition to her writing, Hanna develops educational materials aimed at fostering child rights education.

Outside of her professional career, Hanna enjoys football, dancing, hiking, and singing, particularly with her family—her husband and three children, two boys and a girl.

Nicola Killean

*Children and Young People's
Commissioner Scotland*

Nicola Killean is the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. She and her team are responsible for protecting and promoting the human rights of everyone under 18 in Scotland, or up to the age of 21 if they have care experience.



Nicola has spent most of her career supporting children and young people from communities facing particular challenges and disadvantages. Nicola was founding Chief Executive Officer of the charity, Sistema Scotland. She oversaw the launch and growth of the charity which delivers Big Noise programs, using music and nurturing relationships to support over 3,500 children and young people across Scotland.

Nicola was awarded an OBE in 2020 for services to music, children and community cohesion.

Rachel Thomas

Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Children's Commissioner for Wales



Who am I?

I live in South Wales with my young son. My background is as a family and childcare solicitor; starting out in high-street private practice in the south of England representing parents, then returning home to work for a Welsh local authority on care proceedings and adoption cases. I'm a Welsh speaker, and I enjoy walks, baking and playing the piano to relax.

What do I do?

I am Head of Policy and Public Affairs for the Children's Commissioner for Wales (CCfW). I've worked for CCfW since 2015, starting as a Policy Advisor on Social Services, Communities and Justice. I led the office's projects on children's experiences of residential care in Wales, which produced a report entitled *The Right Care*, and support for care leavers during their transition to adulthood, resulting in the *Hidden Ambitions* report. I also led on the formal review of WG around home education and independent schools policy in 2021.

My areas of interest and/or experience

- Legal basis of decision making for children in receipt of care and support services
- Reviewing and advising on policy and guidance
- Working with children and representing their views and experiences
- Children's human rights
- Interpreting legislation and guidance in practical circumstances, and translating this into straightforward language.

What's important to me

- Involving children and young people in work in a meaningful way
- Providing clear and accessible information for children and families, including recognition of their language preferences
- Joining up areas of work across sectors, from our viewpoint as a national, multi sector organisation
- Proactively acting in compliance with children's rights and taking a rights based approach to service delivery.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Isabelle Sherlock

Senior Policy Advisor, Children's Commissioner (England)



Isabelle is the Senior Policy Advisor at Children's Commissioner for England. She has worked at the Commissioner's office since 2022.

Isabelle has strong professional experience in the public policy landscape. She has previously held roles at The Centre for Social Justice (Education Policy Unit and Family Policy Unit) and ImpactEd.

Isabelle also has a degree in psychology.

Alex Tennant

Head of Policy and Participation, NICCY



Alex is the Head of Policy and Participation in NICCY. She leads the Policy and Research team to monitor government delivery in relation to children's rights and best interests, and to provide advice on how this could be improved.

She also leads the Participation team in relation to NICCY's work with children and young people, and to promote the participation of children and young people by government departments and agencies. While she works across a wide range of issues affecting children and young people, her primary areas of focus are general measures of implementation, child poverty and environmental justice.

Prior to joining NICCY, Alex started her working life as a youth worker in North Belfast, before going to the University of Bradford to study Peace Studies.

On her return to NI, she worked in Mediation NI, the Institute of Conflict Research, the Electoral Commission and Save the Children before starting work at NICCY in 2009.

She lives in Belfast with her family, bees and chickens.

Alex can be contacted at alex@niccy.org

Sheree Maher

Participation & Engagement Lead, Children's Commissioner for Jersey

Sheree is the lead on Participation & Engagement at Children's Commission for Jersey, ensuring children and young people are involved and included in the work of the office. Sheree previously worked within the Government of Jersey and has extensive experience of working across a variety of roles in Children's Social Care.



Email: Sheree@childcomjersey.org.je

Janet Daby MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Children and Families), UK Government



Janet Daby was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Children and Families) at the Department for Education on 9 July 2024. She studied at Brunel University graduating with a BSc, before graduating with a MSc at London school of Economics. She worked in volunteer management and children's social care. She founded the Whitefoot and Downham Community Food + Project in 2013, for which she became a director. She was elected as the Labour MP for Lewisham East in 2014 and 2018.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Michelle Clark

Senior Policy Officer, Children's Rights Team, Government of Jersey



Michelle is a Senior Policy Officer in the Cabinet Office, having worked for the Government of Jersey for 8 years. During this time, she has held roles in the States Greffe, supporting Jersey's parliament and its associated committees and panels, before moving into social policy work within the Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance directorate.

Prior to entering the public service, Michelle's career was in the offshore finance sector, where she focused on client advisory and trust work.

Natalie Don-Innes MSP

Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise, Scottish Government



Natalie Don-Innes MSP is the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping The Promise within Scottish Government.

Natalie Don-Innes was born in Paisley and grew up in Bridge of Weir. She attended Gryffe High School and then went on to study History at University of Glasgow.

Before and during her time at University, Natalie worked in a variety of sales roles working her way up to Manager of a local food retailer.

Natalie was elected as the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Renfrewshire North and West in 2021. Prior to this, she served as the Councillor for Bishopston, Bridge of Weir and Langbank.

Louise King

Director, Children's Rights Alliance for England, and Co-Lead, Just for Kids Law

Louise has over 20 years' experience working in policy and public affairs, specialising in children's rights. She rejoined the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) as its Director in March 2015 (having previously been its Senior Policy Officer)

and oversaw its merger into Just for Kids Law, a charity providing legal advice and representation to children and young people. In August 2023, she became Co-Lead of Just for Kids Law with Aika Stephenson, the charity's Legal Director.



As well as Co-Leading Just for Kids Law, Louise is responsible for the organisation's thematic policy and public affairs strategy, which focusses on children's rights in the justice system, as well as leading CRAE's broader children's rights monitoring and advocacy work. As part of this broader work, she Co-Chairs the UNCRC Action Group with a senior civil servant at the Department for Education. Louise is also a former Chair of ROCK (Rights of the Child UK).

Prior to joining CRAE, Louise worked at Save the Children. Most recently, she led on child rights governance policy and advocacy in the UK. She has also been Vice President of Euronet - the European Children's Network, and Chair of the Separated Children in Europe Programme.

After graduating in philosophy and theology from the University of Nottingham, Louise volunteered for the British Youth Council before taking up the position of Policy Officer where she led on campaigns to lower the voting age to 16 and for the establishment of a Children's Commissioner for England. She then joined CRAE as Senior Policy Officer before joining Save the Children, where she first worked on policy issues relating to child victims of trafficking and children seeking asylum.

Louise has facilitated numerous participatory workshops for children to learn about their rights and empowered children and young people to advocate for the realisation of their own rights across many policy areas including protection from violence, school exclusion, housing and homelessness, and immigration.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Paddy Kelly

Centre Director, Children's Law Centre



Paddy Kelly is a Barrister; she holds an LLB and LLM in Human Rights Law from Queen's University, Belfast. In 1997 Paddy established the Children's Law Centre as the leading children's rights NGO in Northern Ireland. CLC uses the law to vindicate children's rights through litigation, policy and legislative engagement, training and promoting the voice of the child.

After practising as a Barrister, Paddy worked for a number of years with voluntary sector organisations including Save the Children. She established CLC after the first examination of the UK government by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. She has led the NGO sector in this jurisdiction in reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for each of the UK's examinations to date, having also attended each examination. Paddy has ensured the attendance of young people from Northern Ireland at the 2002, 2008, 2016 and 2023 examinations. CLC coordinated, compiled and edited a series of submissions on behalf of the sector during the most recent examination of the UK by the Committee.

Paddy was appointed to the first NI Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) established under the Good Friday Agreement. Paddy has worked to deliver the children's rights protections provided for under the Good Friday Agreement, including those at risk as a result of Brexit. She has been active in working to secure a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, to include strong children's rights protections, as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

Paddy is currently a member of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland and also serves as a Commissioner on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Sean O'Neill

Policy Director, Children in Wales & Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group

Sean is the Policy Director and Deputy CEO at Children in Wales with over 20 years of knowledge and experience in the children's sector. His principal areas of policy interest include child poverty, children's rights, addressing disadvantage and issues pertaining to care experienced children. Sean manages a number of professional networks and is currently Chair of the End Child Poverty Network Cymru and the Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group. He was part of the delegation which represented Wales civil society sector at the UN pre-sessional and state party hearings in Geneva in 2016 and 2023 and has spoken extensively at local, national and international conferences and events on children's rights matters.



Sean is a passionate activist for children's rights and continues to campaign and advocate on behalf of children's issues in a variety of national strategic forums in Wales, including Ministerial advisory groups and is a former Management Board member of Eurochild. Sean has a background in research, experience of front-line housing and advocacy services and has a publication record.

Twitter: @childreninwales @oneillsean22

Dragan Nastic

Strategic Lead - UNCRC, Unicef UK



Dragan Nastic is a UNICEF UK's Strategic Lead on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF UK is an integral part of the United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF). Dragan joined UNICEF UK in January 2007.

Dragan's career and background is in the area of international relations and diplomacy. He's held several overseas posts to carry out development and political work, mainly in Asia and Africa.

Dragan is a lawyer by training. His area of expertise is international public law and he is a member of the International Law Association

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Dragan's role at UNICEF UK is to monitor overall implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other UN human rights treaties by the UK Government, devolved administrations and Crown Dependencies. UNICEF is mandated by the UN General Assembly to work together with national governments and support them in realisation of children's rights. Article 45 of the Convention entitles UNICEF to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of the Convention.

DELEGATE LIST

Name	Role	Organisation	Jurisdiction
Adam Bennett	Chief Executive	ProjectChange	Scotland
Alex Tennant	Head of Policy and Participation	NICCY	Northern Ireland
Alison Telfer	Participation Lead	NHS Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
Aron Hughes	Relentless Youth Worker	Northern Ireland Youth Forum	Northern Ireland
Beth Wiseman	Senior Manager	NHS Highland Argyll and Bute HSCP	Scotland
Bruce Adamson	Law Professor	University of Glasgow	Scotland
Bryan Evans	Assistant Director	Children 1st	Scotland
Caitlin Forrest	Membership and Social Media Officer	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	Scotland
Caomhe Walsh	Development Officer	NSPCC	Scotland
Carly Glover	CEO	Jersey Cares	Jersey
Catherine Nixon	Research Manager	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration	Scotland
Cathy McCulloch	Director	Children's Parliament	Scotland
Claire Germain	Deputy Director, Tackling Poverty & Support Families	Welsh Government	Wales
David de Sousa	Court Experience and Children's Rights	Department for Education , UK Government	England
David Logue	Court Experience and Children's Rights Team Leader	Department for Education, UK Government	England
Dragan Nastic	Strategic Lead - UNCRC	UNICEF UK	Jersey
Ellie Craig	MSYP	Scottish Youth Parliament	Scotland
Emily Beaver	Senior Development Officer	YouthLink Scotland	Scotland
Erin Johnstone	Student Intern	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	Scotland
Ezhilarasi Mahadevan	Children's Rights Policy Officer	Scottish Government	Scotland
Fatoumata Drammeh	Practitioner	UNICEF UK	Scotland
Fergal McFerran	Policy and Public Affairs Manager	Children's Law Centre	Northern Ireland
Finn Dixon	Unicef Youth Advisory Board	UNICEF	England
Fiona Ferguson	Creative Development Director	Imagine	Scotland
Gift Ayodele	Communications Intern	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	Scotland
Gina Wilson	Head of Strategy	Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland	Scotland

DELEGATE LIST

Gordon Main	Project Lead	Our Hearings, Our Voice	Scotland
Hanna Borg	Child Rights Specialist and Programme Director	UNICEF Iceland	Iceland
Isabelle Sherlock	Senior Policy Advisor	Children's Commissioner	England
Janet Daby	MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Children and Families)	UK Government	England
Jennifer Graham	Acting Team Member	NSPCC	Scotland
Jessica McMillan	Research & Impact	Right There	Scotland
Joanna Barrett	Associate Head of Policy	NSPCC	Scotland
Joanne Stevens	Head of Children and Young People's Rights	Welsh Government	Wales
Joe Smith	Rights Reporting & Monitoring Team Leader	Scottish Government	Scotland
Judi Martin	Policy and Participation Officer	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	Scotland
Judy Warburton	Research Officer	SCRA	Scotland
Juliet Harris	Director	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	Scotland
Katherine Anderson	Policy Implementation Lead	CELCIS	Scotland
Katie Horsburgh	Policy & Practice Officer: Children & Young People	Zero Tolerance	Scotland
Kay Tisdall	Professor of Childhood Policy	University of Edinburgh	Scotland
Kim Wells	Youth Participation Team Manager	Brighton & Hove City Council	England
Kirsty Fraser	Child Protection Lead Officer	East Ayrshire Council	Scotland
Lauren McAreavey	Relentless Youth Worker	Northern Ireland Youth Forum	Northern Ireland
Lawrence Walker	Head of Development	National Children's Bureau	England
Lily Humphreys	Policy Manager	Children 1st	Scotland
Liz Levy	Children's Rights Unit Head	Scottish Government	Scotland
Lora Burgess	Project Worker	Children 1st	Scotland
Lou Brodie	Creative Project Facilitator	Imagine	Scotland
Louise King	Co-Lead of Just for Kids Law and Director	Just for Kids Law and Children's Rights Alliance for England	England
Lucinda Rivers	Director	UNICEF UK	Scotland
Lucy Miller	Senior Policy Officer	HRCS	Scotland
Macey Young	UNICEF Youth advisory board	UNICEF	England
Mairi Allan	Head of Youth	British Red Cross	England
Mandeer Kataria	Senior Policy and Public Affairs Advisor	Just for Kids law	England
Maria Stewart	Intern/Work Experience	Children's Law Centre	Northern Ireland
Maria Doyle	Legal & Policy Manager	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	Scotland
Maria Galli	Solicitor	Children and Young	Scotland

DELEGATE LIST

		People's Commissioner Scotland	
Mark Hutchison	Children's Services Development Manager	Fife Voluntary Action	Scotland
Martin Canavan	Head of Policy & Participation	Aberlour	Scotland
Matilda Bryce	Senior Policy and Research Officer	Child Poverty Action Group	Scotland
Matt McDonald	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	Scottish Youth Parliament	Scotland
Meg Thomas	Acting CEO	Forces Children Scotland	Scotland
Melissa Hunt	Policy & Public Affairs Manager	SCRA	Scotland
Michael Sinclair	Private Secretary to Ms Don-Innes	Swansea University	Scotland
Michelle Clark	Senior Policy Officer	Government of Jersey	Jersey
Michelle O'Rourke	Children's Rights and Participation Worker	Edinburgh Women's Aid	Scotland
Natalie Don	Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise	Scottish Government	Scotland
Natalie Corbett	Assistant Director	Northern Ireland Youth Forum	Northern Ireland
Nicola Killean	Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland	Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland	Scotland
Paddy Kelly	Director	Children's Law Centre	Northern Ireland
Paul Hamilton	Training and Engagement	Children's Law Centre	Northern Ireland
Paul Wright	Head of the Children and Young People's Strategy Team	Department for Education in Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland
Rachel Thomas	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	Children's Commissioner for Wales	Wales
Rachel Shanks	Senior Lecturer	University of Aberdeen	Scotland
Rachel Cięciwa	Children's Rights Reporting & Monitoring	Directorate for Children and Families, Scottish Government	Scotland
Rachel Fox		UNICEF UK	UK
Rebecca Rees	Rights Development Worker	Barnardo's Scotland	Scotland
Rebecca Spillane	UNCRC Implementation Project Manager	Improvement Service	Scotland
Rhian Croke Chamberlain	Child Rights Strategic Litigation and Policy Advocacy Lead	Swansea University	Scotland
Richard Valder Davis	Head of Safeguarding & Player Care	BHAFC	Scotland
Rona Blackwood	Head of Programmes	Children's Parliament	Scotland
Roz Hinds	Lead Officer - Children, Young People & Families	TSDG	Scotland
Sabrina Galella	Policy and Public Affairs Manager	JustRight Scotland	Scotland
Sam Nelson	Communications and Marketing Manager	Children's Law Centre	Northern Ireland
Sarah Witcombe-Hayes	Senior Policy Researcher	NSPCC Cymru	Wales

DELEGATE LIST

Delegates	Policy Director	Children in Wales	Wales
Sheree Maher	Participation and Engagement Lead	Office of the Children's Commissioner for Jersey	Jersey
Slimane (Souleymane) Amansag	Chevening Scholar	King's College London	England
Sophie Flemig	Chief Executive	Cattanach	Scotland
Susan Revie	Partnership Lead	Save the Children	Scotland
Therese Kearns	PHD Student	Imaginate/QMU	Scotland
Trisha Hall	Board member	Cattanach	Scotland
Yasmin Ali	Advocate	VoiceAbility	England
Zoe Roy	Participation Lead	Fostering Network	Scotland
Zoe Brown	Hub Relationship Manager	NSPCC	Scotland