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National Human Rights  
Commission, Taiwan  
Official Website



國家人權委員會  
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION, TAIWAN





**Time** 2024/8/20 (Tue.)9:30-16:30

**Location** B1, Chang Yung-Fa Foundation International Convention Center

Time	Item
<b>Child' s Rights Monitoring Mechanism</b>	
09:30-09:35	Opening and Introduction of Distinguished Guests
09:35-09:42	Opening Remark: NHRC Chairperson Chu Chen
09:42-09:50	Group Photo
09:50-11:30	Introduction to Children's Rights Monitoring Mechanisms Presenters: Representatives of National Agency from Various Countries
11:30-11:50	Panel Discussion Host: Vice Chairperson Yu-Ling Wang
11:50-13:30	Lunch
<b>Mechanism for Young People to Participate in Public Issues</b>	
13:30-15:00	Experience Sharing Presenters: Youth Representatives from Various Countries
15:00-15:30	Tea Break
15:30-16:30	Panel Discussion Host: Commissioner Wen-Cheng Lin



**Time** 2024/8/21 (Wed.)9:30-17:00

**Location** B1, Chang Yung-Fa Foundation International Convention Center

Time	Item
<b>Training Courses for Child and Youth Delegate</b>	
09:30-10:50	Experience Sharing Presenters: Youth Representatives from Various Countries
10:50-11:10	Tea Break
11:10-12:00	Panel Discussion Host: Commissioner Chiu-Chin Tien
12:00-13:30	Lunch
<b>World Café</b>	
13:30-13:40	Introduction to The Activity Process
13:40-16:00	Group Discussions
16:00-17:00	Group Presentations (Each Group Presents for 6 Minutes)
17:00	Departure





## Chu Chen

### Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission

Chen Chu is one of the key figures in Taiwan's democratic movement. She was charged with sedition and tried in a military court during the 1979 Kaohsiung Incident, enduring six and a half years in political prison. Believing that democracy and human rights are eternal pursuits, she has served as a director of the East Asia Human Rights Association and as the director and secretary-general of the Taiwan Association for Human Rights. Chu Chen has held various significant roles including the head of the social affairs departments in both of Taiwan's major metropolitan cities, the first chairperson of the Council of Labor Affairs (now the Ministry of Labor) in the new government after Taiwan's first political power transition, and the mayor of Kaohsiung, Taiwan's largest port city, for 12 years. She has also served as the Secretary-General of the Presidential Office. Over her 30-year public service career, she has focused on social welfare and labor rights. During her tenure as mayor, she pioneered the registration system for same-sex couples, laying the groundwork for the eventual legalization of same-sex marriage. Appointed by the President, Chu Chen is the first chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, committed to establishing various systems for the commission, strengthening the supervision of administrative departments, and fostering partnerships with global human rights organizations.





# Child' s Rights Monitoring Mechanism

**Host : Yu-ling Wang Vice Chairperson**

**Presenter :**

- Taiwan Ta-hua Yeh Commissioner**
- Australia Anne Hollonds Commissioner**
- Scotland Bruce Adamson Vice Chair**
- Ireland Nuala Ward Director**



## Moderators and Speakers

### Yu-ling Wang

Deputy Chairperson



Yu-ling Wang started her career as a newspaper reporter focusing on social movements, caring for disadvantaged groups, and organizing labor unions. She participated in labor movements and later worked in central and local labor and social administration authorities, gaining familiarity with labor rights and social welfare. She then transitioned to civil society, serving as the secretary-general of the "League for Persons with Disabilities," advocating for the rights of disabled individuals. Before the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, she was appointed as a member of the Presidential Office Human Rights Consultative Committee, where she frequently addressed issues including the rights of disabled individuals, the treatment of mentally ill law offenders, and the human rights of prison inmates. As a human rights commissioner, she has focused on the rights of migrant workers, conducting investigations on the labor rights of distant water fishery workers and the challenges faced by migrant workers raising children in foreign lands, and has published special reports on these issues.

### Ta-hua Yeh

Human rights commissioner



Ta-hua Yeh is a senior advocate for youth rights in Taiwan, having promoted youth policy and human rights for 25 years. As the secretary-general of the "Taiwan Alliance for the Advancement of Youth Rights and Welfare," she led the campaign for implementing the 18-year-old civic rights movement and has long focused on issues such as youth poverty, media self-regulation, vocational students' rights, and juvenile labor rights, advocating for generational justice. She has served as a member of the Presidential Office Human Rights Consultative Committee and the Executive Yuan's Task Force on Child and Youth Welfare and Rights. Currently, at the National Human Rights Commission, she is involved in drafting the independent evaluation opinion for Taiwan's second CRC national report, monitoring mechanisms for child and youth human rights, handling mechanisms for campus teacher-student violence, and investigating the educational rights of overseas students studying in Taiwan.

## Moderators and Speakers



### **Anne Hollonds**

**Australia's National Children's Commissioner**

**Anne Hollonds is Australia's National Children's Commissioner. In this role Anne monitors policy and legislation to ensure that the human rights of children are protected and promoted.**

**Formerly Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies, for 23 years Anne was Chief Executive of government and non-government organisations focused on research, policy and practice in child and family wellbeing.**

**As a psychologist Anne has worked extensively in frontline practice, including child protection, domestic, family and sexual violence, mental health, child and family counselling, parenting education, family law counselling, and community development.**

**Anne currently contributes to several expert advisory groups, including the Family Law Council, Australian Child Maltreatment Study, NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council, National Plan Advisory Group (NPAG), and the Australian Centre for Child Protection Advisory Board.**

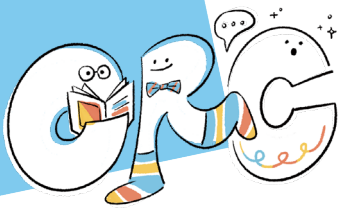


### **Bruce Adamson**

**Vice Chair of the Child Friendly Governance Project**

**Professor Bruce Adamson is the Vice Chair of the Child Friendly Governance Project, a global NGO which is putting children at the heart of decision making. From 2017-2023 Bruce was Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. Working directly with children his office helped secure legislative change in relation to the age of criminal responsibility, the physical punishment of children, and the incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots law. Bruce is a lawyer qualified in three jurisdictions and was a member of Scotland's Children's Panel for 13 years. He has worked as a human rights expert in over 20 countries for the UN, Council of Europe, EU, OSCE, UNDP and WHO. He is a former Chair of the European Network of Ombuds for Children, and the Scottish Child Law Centre. Bruce is just finishing a term as Professor in Practice at the University of Glasgow School of Law.**





## Moderators and Speakers



### **Nuala Ward**

**Director of Investigations in the Ombudsman for Children's Office in Ireland**

**Nuala Ward is the Director of Investigations in the Ombudsman for Children's Office in Ireland.**



### **Ma. Victoria "Bing" S. Diaz**

**The Chief of the Child Rights Center of the CHRP.**



# Mechanism for Young People to participate in public issues

**Host : Wen-cheng Lin Commissioner**

**Speaker :**

•Scotland    **Finlay Anderson**

•Ireland    **Aisling 、 Alfie**

•Taiwan    **Rong-Yu Liu**

•Australia    **Bella 、 Sebastian 、 Ruben**



## Moderators and Speakers



### Wen-cheng Lin

Human rights commissioner

Dr. Lin Wen-cheng is currently a member (ombudsman) of the Control Yuan. Before he was nominated by President Tsai Ingwen and approved by the Legislative Yuan to serve as a Control Yuan member since August 1, 2000, Dr. Lin was Distinguished Professor in the Institute of China and Asia-Pacific Studies and Director of the Center for National Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), as well as Chairman of the Taiwan Society of Japan Studies. Dr. Lin was Senior Adviser (a government ministerial-level position) to President Chen Shui-bian in the National Security Council in 2003-2004, President of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) in 2006-2010, and President of the Foundation on Asia-Pacific Peace Studies in 2016-2020. He served as Dean of NSYSU' s College of Social Sciences in 2006-2007 & 2009-2015. Before joining the National Security Council in 2003, Dr. Lin was Director for both the Institute of Mainland China Studies and Sun Yat-sen America Center, National Sun Yat-sen University. Dr. Lin earned his MALD and Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in the United States.



### Finlay Anderson

Former Young Advisor for the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland

Finlay Anderson, Former Young Advisor for the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland.



## Moderators and Speakers



### Rong-Yu Liu

- **The Second Central Child and Youth Delegation**
- **6th Term Youth Advisory Representative of the Ministry of Education's National Education Administration**
- **Executive Supervisor of the Taiwan YDY Education Association**

**Former Member of the 5th Executive Yuan's Child Rights Promotion Group.**



### Bella

**Bella is from Kaurna Country (Adelaide) and recently completed her Bachelor of Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Adelaide. She has a keen interest in environmentalism. She is also passionate about addressing action on climate change and discrimination volleyball, playing, and coaching at a national level, which has taught her a lot about connection and community.**

**She hopes the committee continues to engage a diverse range of young people, and that the government values their lived experiences and perspectives in policy decisions.**





## Moderators and Speakers



### Sebastian

Sebastian is a young Queenslander based in Brisbane. He migrated to Australia from Europe aged ten. Sebastian is a science student at UQ and is passionate about including Autistic and young people in government decision making. He believes that when government and young people work together real progress can be made.

Sebastian participated in the development of Engage! as an inaugural member of the Youth Steering Committee, he is delighted to participate in the implementation of Engage!. He also sits on the Oversight Council of the National Autism Strategy, where he has participated in the development of this strategy and advocated for the inclusion of young voices and their lived experiences.



### Ruben

Ruben is the youngest member of the Youth Steering Committee. He was born in Melbourne but has lived in Perth, WA for the past 5 years. Ruben shines as a middle school leader, speaking confidently in front of his peers with his open and honest communication style. He shows his true self while engaging in his community, encouraging others to have the confidence to share their own stories and have their voices heard. His lived experience with a severe tic disorder has given him resilience, compassion, and empathy.

Ruben's key goal is to be able to connect with like-minded people and demonstrate leadership through various opportunities as part of the Youth Steering Committee. He is looking forward to connecting with people from different backgrounds and having a fun time making a difference to the youth of Australia





# Training Courses for Child and Youth Delegate

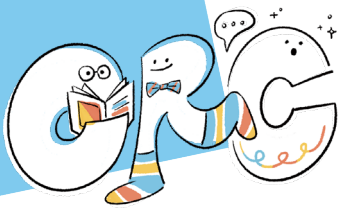
**Host : Chiu-chin Tien Commissioner**

**Speaker :**

•Scotland **Ellie Craig**

•Ireland **Caoimhe Acres**

•Taiwan **Emily Cheng**



## Moderators and Speakers



### **Chiu-chin Tien**

**Human rights commissioner**

**Chiu-chin Tien initially engaged in the democratic movement and later became deeply concerned about environmental and ecological issues, dedicating herself to environmental protection. During her tenure as a legislator, she successfully promoted the enactment of the Renewable Energy Development Act, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, the Organic Act of the Ocean Affairs Council Ocean Conservation Administration, and the Organization Act of the National Academy of Marine Research. She also pushed for multiple amendments to the Food Safety and Sanitation Management Act. As a member of the Control Yuan, she has conducted investigations and reports on food safety, environmental issues, energy transition, child welfare, and education rights. She has also overseen systematic inspections and studies on sexual assault in child placement institutions and schools for the National Human Rights Commission.**



### **Ellie Craig**

**Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament**

**Ellie Craig MSYP is the Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the MSYP for Glasgow Cathcart. As chair, Ellie leads the organisation and the board of trustees and ensures SYPs youth led mandate is at the forefront of everything SYP does. As well as Ellie's role as Chair, she is a trustee of Young Scot, Scotland's National Youth Information and Citizenship Charity.**

## Moderators and Speakers



### **Emily Cheng**

- **The Second Central Child and Youth Delegation**
- **Executive Yuan Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Promotion Group / Child and Youth Committee Member**

**The Second Central Child and Youth Delegation  
Executive Yuan Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Promotion  
Group / Child and Youth Committee Member**



### **Jamie Dunlop**

**SYPs Chief Executive**

**Jamie is SYPs Chief Executive. He's responsible for the day to day running of the organisation, being the link between the SYP board and the staff team, charity governance and delivering on our strategic plan supporting young people to realise their rights and have their voices heard by decision makers.**

**Jamie graduated from the University of Dundee with a BA (Hons) in Community Education and has been a youth worker for 18 years. He has worked for SYP for 11 years and was previously Deputy Chief Executive being promoted to Chief Executive in 2023.**

**Jamie is also a member of the CLD Standards Council Executive Committee and a trustee of the Dynamic Earth Educational Trust. He is a keen reader and wild swimmer.**





**International Conference on Monitoring  
Children's Rights**

**Taipei  
August 2024**

**Professor Bruce Adamson  
School of Law, University of Glasgow**

**Vice-Chair of the Child Friendly Governance Project**

**Fellow at the Cattanach Trust**

**Former Children and Young People's Commissioner  
Scotland and Chair of the European Network of  
Ombudspersons for Children**

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Finlay Anderson  
(He/Him)

Former Young Advisor Children and Young People's  
Commissioner Scotland and Chairperson of Dumfries &  
Galloway Youth Council

#IWill Scotland Ambassador

Partners in Advocacy Board Trustee

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**GENERAL COMMENT NO. 2 (2002)**

**THE ROLE OF INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

General Comment 2 explains how people like Children and Young People's Commissioners can best protect children's human rights.

- Help children, young people and adults understand children's human rights.
- Make sure children and young people know how to contact them.
- Listen to all children and young people's views and make sure others do too.
- Involve children and young people in their day to day work.
- Work closely with children's and young people's organisations.
- Be able to investigate where children's human rights are not being respected.
- Report back to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on how their country's government is respecting children's human rights.

The Committee also says that like other national human rights institutions, Commissioners should be independent of government.

**GENERAL COMMENT NO. 5**

**(2003) GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

The 'General Measures of Implementation' are the parts of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which set out what governments should do to respect children's human rights.

- Governments need to do everything in their power to respect children's human rights. They should make sure that they provide the most money they can to make that happen.
- Governments should make sure that children and young people know what their rights are.
- Governments should help adults understand how to respect those rights.
- When governments are reporting back to the United Nations about what they have done to respect children's human rights, they should make sure that those reports are available to everyone, including children and young people.

## Role of the Commissioner:



In 2003 the Scottish Parliament wanted to 'make a real difference by creating an independent, high-profile and influential post' of the Children and Young People' s Commissioner with a responsibility to promote and safeguard the rights of everyone under 18 in Scotland or up to 21 if the young person is in care or has care experience.



““““

This gives us the chance to make a real difference by creating an independent, high-profile and influential post. ... the most significant legacy that we, as members of parliament, can leave our children and our children's children.





## Scotland



Scotland – Population 5.5 million (1 million children)  
Council of Europe – Population 820 million  
(150 million children)



HOGWARTS SCHOOL  
OF WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY





## Two Parliaments

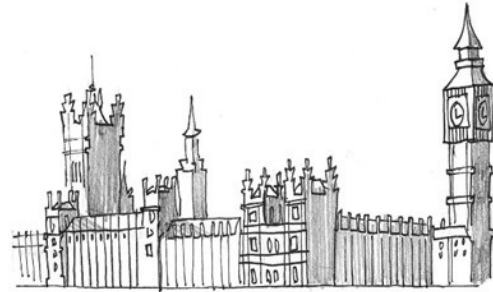


illustration @ alex leonard





## Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 2003 asp 17

The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 26th March 2003 and received Royal Assent on 1st May 2003

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to provide for the establishment and functions of a Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland; and for connected purposes.

### The Commissioner

#### 1 Establishment

- (1) There is to be a Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland.
- (2) Schedule 1 makes further provision about the Commissioner.

#### 2 Appointment

- (1) The Commissioner is to be an individual appointed by Her Majesty on the nomination of the Parliament.
- (2) A person is disqualified from appointment as the Commissioner if that person is, at the date when the appointment is to take effect, or in the year prior to that date has been— (a) a member of the Parliament; (b) a member of the House of Commons; or (c) a member of the European Parliament.
- (3) The Commissioner is to be appointed for such period, not exceeding five years, as the Parliamentary corporation may determine.
- (4) A person who has been appointed for one period as the Commissioner may be appointed for a second period (whether or not consecutive) but not for any additional period.

#### 3 Removal

- (1) The Commissioner may be removed from office by Her Majesty if—

- (a) the Commissioner so requests; or
  - (b) the Parliament has passed a resolution for removal on the ground— (i) that the Commissioner has breached the terms of appointment; or (ii) that the Parliament has lost confidence in the Commissioner's willingness, ability or suitability to carry out the functions of the office.
- (2) A resolution for removal of the Commissioner, if passed on a division, must be voted for by not less than two thirds of those voting.

### Functions

#### 4 Promoting and safeguarding rights

- (1) The general function of the Commissioner is to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people.
- (2) In exercising that general function the Commissioner is, in particular, to—
  - (a) promote awareness and understanding of the rights of children and young people;
  - (b) keep under review the law, policy and practice relating to the rights of children and young people with a view to assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of such law, policy and practice;
  - (c) promote best practice by service providers; and
  - (d) promote, commission, undertake and publish research on matters relating to the rights of children and young people.

#### 5 United Nations Convention and equal opportunities

- (1) In exercising functions under this Act, the Commissioner must comply with subsections (2) to (4).
- (2) The Commissioner must have regard to any relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- (3) The Commissioner must, in particular—
  - (a) regard, and encourage others to regard, the best interests of children and young people as a primary consideration; and
  - (b) have regard to, and encourage others to have regard to, the views of children and young people on all matters affecting them, due allowance being made for age and maturity.
- (4) The Commissioner must act in a manner which encourages equal opportunities and, in particular, the observance of the equal opportunity requirements.

#### 6 Involving children and young people

- (1) The Commissioner must encourage the involvement of children and young people in the work of the Commissioner.
- (2) The Commissioner must, in particular, take reasonable steps to— (a) ensure that children and young people are made aware of—

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Notes

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

## Our Act (2003)

We PROMOTE and SAFEGUARD children and young people's rights by:

- Raising awareness of rights
- Involving children and young people in our work
- Considering law, policy and practice relating to children's rights
- Communicating best practice about rights

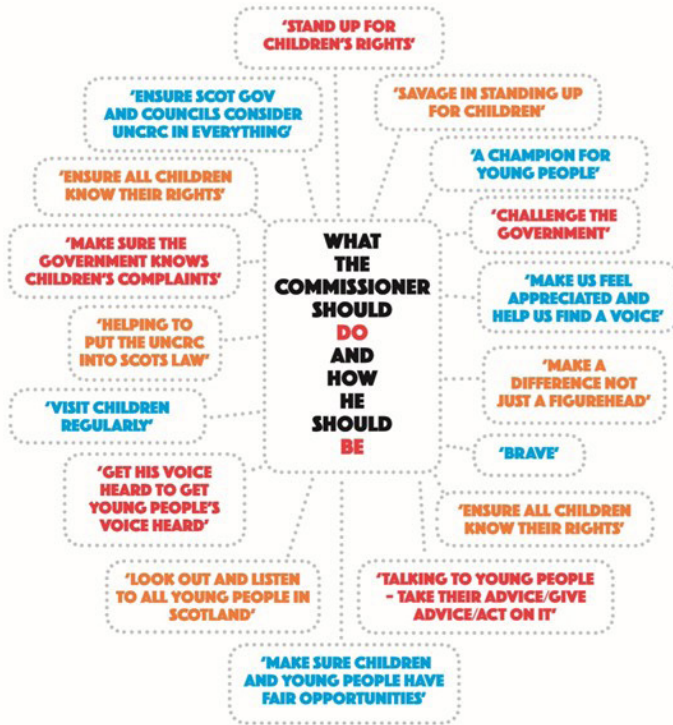








WHAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOLD US THAT THEY WANTED THEIR COMMISSIONER TO HAVE 'BIG EARS FOR LISTENING', 'HAVE A GOOD HEART' AND BE

- 'GENEROUS'
- 'STUBBORN'
- 'LOUD'
- 'ENTHUSIASTIC'
- 'KIND'
- 'CLEVER'
- 'CONFIDENT'
- AND
- 'TO CARE'

## Fierce Defender of Children's Rights







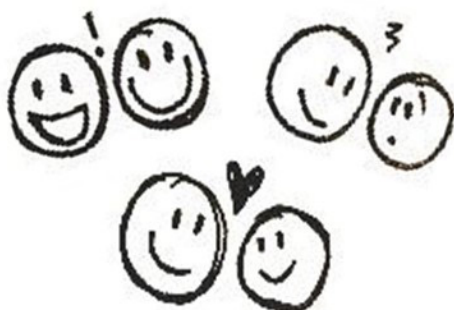
## Our Values



## Our Mission

Our mission is to..

- Be fierce champions of children and young people' s human rights
- Make sure that laws that are fair





## Our Mission

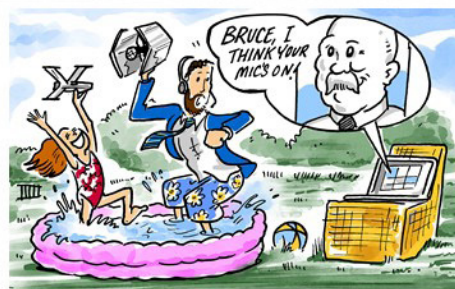
Our mission is to..

- Demand change where children and young people' s rights are not being respected
- Support human rights defenders
- Make sure adults learn about children and young people' s human rights.
- Put children and young people at the heart of all our work.



## Our Office









# Young Advisors

<https://vimeo.com/810263102>







## Investigation

### No Safe Place:

Restraint and Seclusion in Scotland's Schools



Our first investigation:

**Restraint** means – holding a child or young person to stop them from moving

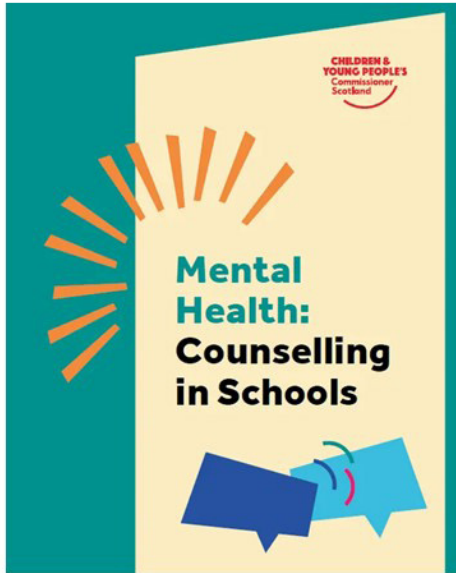
**Seclusion** means – shutting a child alone in a room or another place and not allowing them to leave.

- We found that there was serious inconsistency in the governance and monitoring of restraint and seclusion in Scotland
- 22 recommendations to the Scottish Government and local authorities.
- We are now working to make sure they are implemented.



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## Investigation



Our latest investigation:

### Entirely run by Young Advisers

- All children should have a right of access to counselling at school
- Local authorities should ensure that counselling is available outside school hours, during school holidays and outside school premises, on request
- Scottish Government should expand school counselling provision to all primary and special schools in Scotland
- All local authorities should have clear waiting times for children who want to access services, and information should be child-friendly

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## Child Justice



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**"The UN committee commends states that set minimum ages of 15 or 16 and encourages states to set the minimum age to **at least 14.**"**

**Ann Skelton**  
UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

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**#12IsntLeading**



## Equal Protection

On 3 October 2019 [the Children \(Equal Protection\) \(Scotland\) Act](#) was passed by the Scottish Parliament, meaning children in Scotland now have the same protections against assault as adults.

Equal Protection is something our office has been calling for since 2004

Assaulting a child for the purposes of punishment should always be against the law, and our previous law was untenable in international human rights law terms.



### The Observer Opinions

## Care Experience



The Review of the Care System in Scotland will report in January with a number of key human rights themes:

- Incorporation of the UNCRC
- Human right education for children and young people
- Support for the workforce to take a rights based approach
- Advocacy and legal advice
- Rights based inspection and regulation





# Food Insecurity

*'The most unfair thing is the government knows families are going through hard times, but they decide not to do anything about it.'* - 12-year-old John Adebola-Samuel, Dumfries



# Additional Support Needs



*I am strong  
AND  
sometimes  
I need your  
HELP*

- Shopping List - We need:
- more accessible transport buses, trains, taxis and travel training
- to be warm enough.
- to have somewhere to work.
- to have accessible information.
- better public understanding about being disabled.
- to have necessary hygiene and care equipment - especially a good washing machine
- to have the need for love, and our pets.
- to have enough money
- to feel safe.




# Strategic Litigation



Since 2017, we have become involved in a number of cases involving the rights of children and young people.

- No Recourse to Public Funds
- Deprivation of liberty
- Restraint and Seclusion
- Toolkit




## UNDER 18?

### YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS AT PROTESTS

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

All children under the age of 18 who choose to protest (in person or online) have human rights that must be respected, protected, and fulfilled.

Adults must think about what's best for you and consider your views when making decisions that affect your life.



**You have the right to find out and share information**

Information about climate movements, policies, and climate change should be widely available for you to access. You also have the right to know what's happening before and during a protest, including if you are held by police during a protest. You should be told what's happening and have the right to ask questions.

You can also share information about climate movements, policies, climate change, and protests, so long as it does not harm or offend other people.

**You have the right to privacy**

This is especially important for protests that take place online. For example, you shouldn't have anyone listening in to your personal conversations or reading your messages. In Scotland, the law has some exceptions to this when you, or someone else, is in danger.

**You have the right to be kept safe from harm or violence**

You have the right to be protected when protesting. This includes from anybody who may act violently at a protest, and from all online abuse. The authorities should take steps to stop any violence. They should not stop you from protesting, unless you are in danger.

**You have the right to learn about your human rights and the environment**

You have the right to learn about what your human rights are, when you can defend them, and about the environment, including climate change. This includes knowing when and how to protest.

**What happens if you're detained or arrested by police**

Arresting you should always be the last possible option. But it might happen, and you have rights if it does.





# COVID

ON 8TH APRIL 2020, THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD WARNED OF:

THE "GRAVE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN".

WE DID A PROJECT SHOWING THAT THE PANDEMIC HAD AFFECTED EVERY PART OF CHILDREN'S LIVES. THE DECISIONS MADE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE PANDEMIC, LIKE THE LOCKDOWN, DID NEED TO HAPPEN TO PROTECT PEOPLE.

THE COMMITTEE CALLED ON STATES TO FOCUS ON 11 KEY AREAS. WE USED THESE AS THE BASIS FOR OUR WORK DURING THE PANDEMIC.

BUT THERE WERE CONSEQUENCES FOR CHILDREN.

# Moving work online

DIRECTLY OR NOT.

I REGULARLY MEET WITH THE YOUNG ADVISERS ONLINE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING CHILDREN. TOGETHER, WE CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN.

SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S Commissioner Scotland**

**OUR YEAR 2020/21: REPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Every year, we report to you about our work. This is our report for the year between April 2020 and March 2021, which began around the same time as lockdown.

**WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?**

The UK went into lockdown because of coronavirus in March 2020 and we started working on the impact this was going to have on your rights.

- We were most worried about schools closing, families living in poverty, and mental health.
- We worked with children's rights experts to assess how coronavirus was affecting children.
- And this helped adults understand how decisions and laws affected you.
- When exams were cancelled, we told the Scottish Government and the SQA they had to listen to young people.
- We worked with the World Health Organization to look at how schooling could continue while keeping everyone safe.
- We reported to the UN on how well the government is doing on children's rights.
- We have been campaigning to protect children from harm. A new law said adults can no longer use any physical punishment on children.
- We've told the Scottish Government about how important it is to speak to you about climate justice.

**OUR INVESTIGATIONS**

Our Advice and Investigations team help the Commissioner use his power to investigate issues impacting children's human rights.

- We investigated if children were being locked up in prisons without proper laws being followed.
- Our previous work on restraint and seclusion in schools was used this year to make things better for children.

**WHO ARE WE?**

The Children and Young People's Commissioner is Bruce Adamson. His job is to promote and protect your human rights if you're under 18 or up to 21 if you have care experience. He works with a team of people.

- We work to make sure the laws that affect your lives are fair.
- We help you understand how valuable and important your rights are.
- We make sure adults in Scotland know more about your rights so they can see where they need to make changes.
- We put you at the heart of our work and will listen and learn from you.
- We work with Young Advisers who tell us what they think about lots of issues.

**INVOLVING YOU**

Working directly with you is essential to our work. Here are some of the ways that's happened this year...

- Our Young Advisers told us when their rights like education and health were not upheld in the pandemic.
- They helped us respond to issues such as poverty, education, digital exclusion, and mental health.
- They gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament and appeared at the United Nations.
- We spoke online to children all over the country so they could tell us about their experiences.

**GETTING ADVICE**

This year we helped even more people get advice on children's human rights. They asked about loads of different things relating to Covid, like support for children with additional needs and rules around whole classes having to isolate.

**PUTTING YOUR RIGHTS INTO LAW**

Our office has been campaigning alongside children for a long time to make the United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of the

Child (UNCRC) a part of our law. This is the most important thing we can do to protect your rights.

- In March 2021, the Scottish Parliament voted to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law. It means that the Scottish Government will need to keep its promises to children and young people.
- The UK Government has challenged parts of the bill that will make the law so more work has to be done. But incorporation will still happen.

**"Incorporation means children's voices will be heard. They will be listened to and know that they matter."** Abigail, Young Adviser

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

Here are some of the things we'll be doing...

- We'll continue to promote and protect children's human rights during the pandemic.
- We are going to hit the road and chat to as many of you as we can in person as long as Covid-19 measures allow! We can't wait to hear your views.
- We are working with three new groups of Young Advisers. They'll be telling us about the issues that matter to them like mental health.
- We're looking forward to supporting young human rights defenders to demand change at climate conference COP26 in Glasgow.

**THANK YOU!**

We want to thank you all for helping us this year. You are all incredible human rights defenders. Special thanks to our out-going group of Young Advisers. We couldn't have championed children's rights without you by our sides.

## Gaelic Language







# Human Rights Defenders



In August 2018, we created a Young Human Rights Defenders Action Group

12 children human rights defenders from across Scotland aged 14 – 20 years old, with diverse life experiences and each defending a different human rights issue.

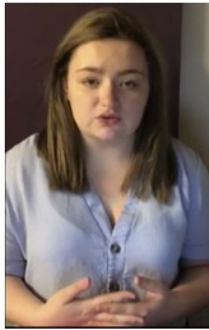
We captured their stories and recommendations on what support duty-bearers should provide to protect and empower children human rights defenders. Our report *Promote, Protect, Defend: A report on children and young people as human rights defenders in year's work with over 200 children on what it means to be a young human rights defender in Scotland.*

## UN Day of General Discussion 2018



Myself, @SukiMSYP, @JohnWalkerMSYP, @JoshKenMSYP, @RMcCall\_MSYP, @Bruce\_Adamson, and Members of @Creative\_Voices are in the @ScotParl today for a video link with Wales leading up to the UN Day of General Discussion. A great way to show #SYPrights #HumanRightsDefenders



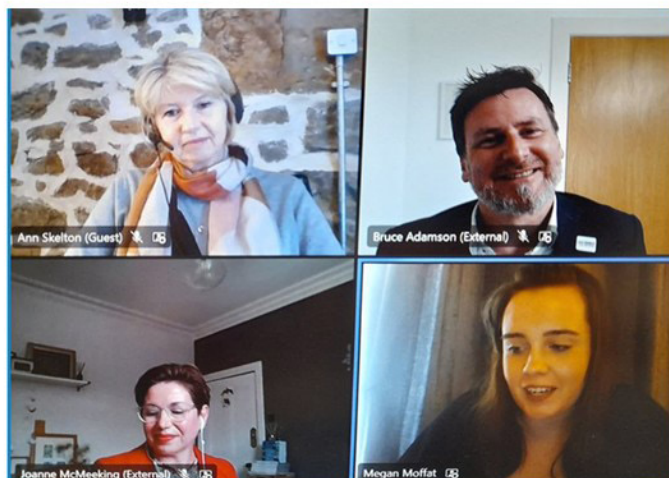


### Young Adviser Hope Speaking at the Human Rights Council Social Forum on Poverty (2020)



CEL CIS @CELCIStweets · Jun 22, 2022

We had a fantastic and thought-provoking discussion this afternoon with Prof Ann Skelton, @Bruce\_Adamson, @meganisfine @meekmacs and about the recommendations from the @UN #DGD on Children's Rights and Alternative Care. (1/2)





### Connecting with other Human Rights Defenders



christina nomdo  
@NomdoChristina

A highlight of Saadiq's 🇿🇦 first day @UNGeneva was meeting @Bruce\_Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland @CYPSC after he presented at @UN\_HRC Universal Periodic Review process. #littlevoicesMUSTcount #littlevoicesDOcount



### 16th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Youth (COY16)

- Lily, Young Adviser to Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
- Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- Laura, 17, Shetland
- Mr. Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
- Climate Changemakers: Members of Children's Parliament, Scotland







**General  
Comment**

NO:26 **Environmental  
Rights** - under 5s

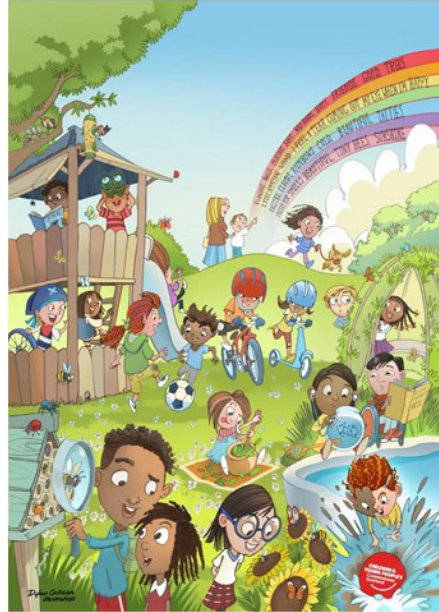






# General Comment

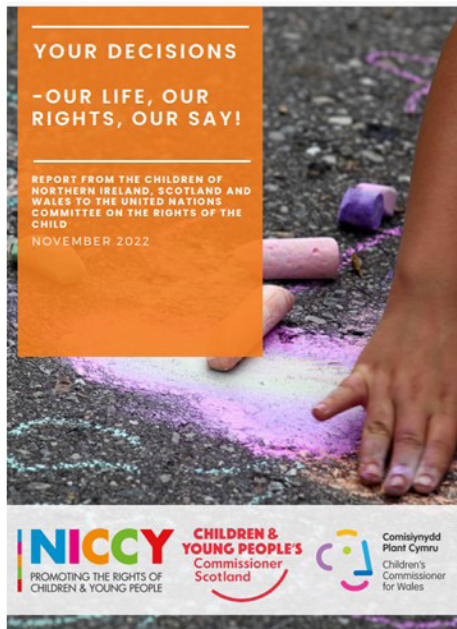
NO:26 **Environmental Rights** - under 5s



Report of the Children's Commissioners of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Examination of the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

November 2022



YOUR DECISIONS

- OUR LIFE, OUR RIGHTS, OUR SAY!

REPORT FROM THE CHILDREN OF NORTHERN IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

NOVEMBER 2022





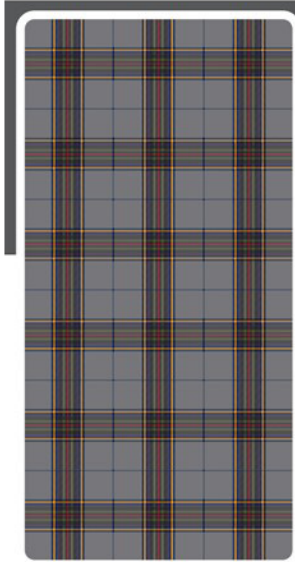


Committee Against Torture





## Worlds Only Human Rights Defenders Tartan



The origin of the Child Human Rights Defenders tartan is the 2018 United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of General Discussion which had the theme of child human rights defenders. Children from Scotland attended the event at the United Nations in tartan trews and kilts and made a major impression on international delegates.

There has been growing recognition in Scotland and globally of the role of children are playing as human rights defenders, particularly on issues such as climate justice. One of the themes that has developed is that child human rights defenders value the sense of identity and belonging that being a human rights gives to them. The young advisers to the office of the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland suggested a tartan as a uniquely Scottish way to capture that sense of identity in a way that also reflected Scotland's global leadership on the issue.

The tartan was designed by young human rights defenders and incorporates the following principles:

The grey background and black lines represents the challenges of standing up for human rights and reference a Māori proverb used by the Commissioner "He pōkēkē Uenuku i tu ai" which means "Against the dark cloud the rainbow stands out brightly" and symbolises the bravery of human rights defenders.

The colours which stand out brightly as a rainbow against the darkness are:

- Red** – symbolises stopping injustices and passion
- Yellow** - symbolises happiness, positive change & optimism
- Green** - symbolises growth, climate and nature
- Blue** – to represent Scotland, the Council of Europe and the United Nations – the human rights framework
- Purple** – represents youth, energy and the colour of our thistle

## Incorporation

While there are other means to ensure accountability, the CRC has clearly highlighted the importance the importance of clear legal measures of implementation, with clear domestic accountability (see GC 5).

Incorporation features heavily in Concluding Observations from the Committee.





# Incorporation Timeline

- 2014 - 2017 - campaigning
- 2017 - Scottish Government agrees to consider UNCRC Incorporation
- 2018 - Scottish Government agrees to incorporate, but sets no timeframe
- 2018 - CYPCS/Together Expert Advisory Group drafts a Bill
- 2019 - Scottish Government Consultation
- 2020 - Bill introduced to Scottish Parliament
- 2021 - Unanimously passed, challenged in the Supreme Court, ruled *ultra vires* as the scope infringed on Acts of the UK Parliament
- 2022 - Delay and Prevarication
- 2023 - Reconsideration with scope narrowed to exclude Acts of UK Parliament
- 16 February 2024 - Royal Assent, Scottish Government rules out early commencement, so will come into force on last possible date
- 16 July 2024 - Commencement

1. Today the @ScotParl considers Stage 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. If passed, following Royal Assent, it will come into force later this year! #UNCRCScotland



# Incorporation

## Full and direct

Incorporate UNCRC and Optional Protocols into law insofar as possible within the powers of the Scottish Parliament.

## Compatibility duty

To enable remedy and redress.

## Due regard duty

Encourage a proactive approach to children' s rights.

## Jurisprudence of UN Committee

Considered in interpreting UNCRC requirements.

**High priority in legal system** - strike down powers.

## Future-proofing

Allowing for change in powers of Scottish Parliament.

**Child Rights Impact Assessment** - a mandatory duty.

**Children' s Scheme** - including requirements to report on progress, involve children and young people and Children' s Commissioner.

1. Today the @ScotParl considers Stage 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. If passed, following Royal Assent, it will come into force later this year! #UNCRCScotland





44  
Institutions

34  
Countries

ENOC gathers 44 independent children's rights institutions in 34 countries within the Council of Europe member states

enoc ENYA 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS ENYA

HEALTH: TAKE CARE OF MENTAL HEALTH, PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH SUPPORT, PROMOTE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN, RECORD LESSONS, BUT DON'T LET THE "CRISIS" BECOME A BARRIER TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, TRAINING OF TEACHERS, NEED FOR EQUIPMENT, DIGITAL TOOLS, NEED FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING, SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, OFFER SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, IMPROVE BASIC GOODS ACCESS TO EDUCATION, FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES FOR PROFESSIONALS, HELP TEACHERS, ADAPT EDUCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULTS, SUPPORT FAMILIES IN RURAL AREAS, SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS, SAFE SPACES, RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO AFFECTED CHILDREN, AWARENESS FOR REDUCING BULLYING, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET

POVERTY: IMPROVE BASIC GOODS ACCESS TO EDUCATION, FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES FOR PROFESSIONALS, HELP TEACHERS, ADAPT EDUCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULTS, SUPPORT FAMILIES IN RURAL AREAS, SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS, SAFE SPACES, RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO AFFECTED CHILDREN, AWARENESS FOR REDUCING BULLYING, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET

VIOLENCE: SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS, SAFE SPACES, RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO AFFECTED CHILDREN, AWARENESS FOR REDUCING BULLYING, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET

PARTICIPATION: INVOLVE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND INTERESTS, CHILD PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE PART OF THE CURRICULUM, COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION, PROMOTE SPECIAL AREAS OF INTEREST ACTIVITIES, MORE FUNDING IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE & ACTIVITIES, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONSIDER CHILDREN'S NEEDS FOR RECREATIVE ACTIVITIES, SPORTS OR CULTURE

PLAY & LEISURE: INVOLVE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND INTERESTS, CHILD PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE PART OF THE CURRICULUM, COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION, PROMOTE SPECIAL AREAS OF INTEREST ACTIVITIES, MORE FUNDING IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE & ACTIVITIES, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONSIDER CHILDREN'S NEEDS FOR RECREATIVE ACTIVITIES, SPORTS OR CULTURE

INFORMATION: WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHY, STOP STIGMATIZING YOUNG PEOPLE, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHY, STOP STIGMATIZING YOUNG PEOPLE

DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT: SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS, SAFE SPACES, RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT TO AFFECTED CHILDREN, AWARENESS FOR REDUCING BULLYING, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET, ADVOCATING COURAGEOUSLY IN THE STREET

FAMILY: INVOLVE CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND INTERESTS, CHILD PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE PART OF THE CURRICULUM, COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION, PROMOTE SPECIAL AREAS OF INTEREST ACTIVITIES, MORE FUNDING IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE & ACTIVITIES, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONSIDER CHILDREN'S NEEDS FOR RECREATIVE ACTIVITIES, SPORTS OR CULTURE

<https://vimeo.com/622322583>





# ENYA

Let' s Talk Young, Let' s Talk  
About Climate Justice  
2022

Let' s Talk Young, Let' s Talk  
About Protecting and Promoting  
Children' s Rights 2023



## WHO ARE WE?

WE WORK TO MAKE  
SURE THE LAWS THAT AFFECT  
YOUR LIVES ARE FAIR.

WE HELP YOU UNDERSTAND  
HOW VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT  
YOUR RIGHTS ARE.

WE MAKE SURE ADULTS IN  
SCOTLAND KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR  
RIGHTS SO THEY CAN SEE WHERE THEY  
SHOULD MAKE CHANGES.

WE PUT YOU AT THE HEART  
OF OUR WORK AND WILL LISTEN  
AND LEARN FROM YOU.

WE WORK WITH  
YOUNG ADVISERS ON  
THE RIGHTS ISSUES THAT  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US  
MATTER MOST.

### WHO IS THE COMMISSIONER?

In May 2017, Bruce Adamson was given the job of Children and Young People's Commissioner for a six-year term. He is Scotland's third Commissioner since the role was created by the Scottish Parliament in 2003.

Every year we report to you about our work. This is our report for you for April 2021 until the end of March 2022. You can read the full report we sent to Parliament on [our website](#).

The Commissioner is someone with authority and powers to promote and protect the human rights of all children and young people in Scotland. That is everyone under 18, and everyone up to 21 who is in care or care experienced.







## MESSAGE FROM THE YOUNG ADVISERS GROUP

Our group of Young Advisers came together in 2021 after the Commissioner's office recruited a new team. We're aged between 14 and 17 and live all over Scotland. Some of us had previous experience and interest in defending children's human rights and some of us were completely new to it. What we all had in common was the desire to get involved and ultimately, make a difference through our work with the office.

That work has been diverse, and we've been able to throw ourselves into it -- with plenty of support!

Our groups are:

### ENYA (European Network of Young Advisers)

2021: We have international links with other young people across Europe through ENOC (European Network of Children's Ombudspersons) and worked on the theme of recovery from Covid-19.

**Mental Health Investigators:** We are examining school counselling provision.

**Governance:** We help the office make decisions about the direction of their work.

"I don't know what I was expecting but I wasn't expecting being a Young Adviser to be as much fun, or such a good experience. I thought 'oh this is just volunteering, I'll do a couple of things now and then but it won't really change much'. But it's honestly shaped me, it's changed who I am and how I act"

Lewis, 16, Young Adviser



"Becoming a Young Adviser has been a great way for all our voices as young people to be heard and for us to make a proper difference in the world."

Rennie, 15, Young Adviser

"I helped host a webinar. It was daunting but a great experience. It's so good when young people are supported and encouraged to meaningfully participate. Let's get our voices heard!"

Lewis  
Young Adviser  
@WansChildrensDay

"All young people have the right to health. But a lack of good quality nutritional meals can lead to an unhealthy child."

Rennie, 15, Young Adviser

Sophie  
Young Adviser

Just some of the things we have done:

- Worked with other young advisers from across Europe to make recommendations on what help children and young people need to recover from the pandemic, like education, health and relationships.
- Spoke during the UN Climate Change Conference of Youth and continued to work on climate justice which is one of our main issues.
- Wrote about food poverty, disabled young people's rights, right to protest and produced a film about the rights of deaf children.

"My experiences of the ENYA forum 2021 are nothing but positive! The whole experience was fun no matter what session we were on. From a virtual tour to a live escape room, the whole experience was fantastic."

Ally, 17, Young Adviser



## WHAT DO WE DO?

"Every single day of delay of incorporation of the UNCRC is a day when children's rights are not protected in law."

Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

### GETTING ON THE ROAD!

Making sure you are involved in what we do is essential. When we were allowed to travel after Covid restrictions, Bruce and the team embarked on a Participation Roadshow visiting children and young people across Scotland, making sure we didn't just go to cities but also the countryside and islands, including Shetland and Orkney.

We've sung in nurseries, run workshops in schools and rolled on mats learning Judo. The important part was getting to where you live to hear what mattered to you.



"The Scottish Government needs to recognise that young people are crying out for help. We need more mental health support, we want our exams and our schooling to be sorted. We need them to be clear on restrictions, and we've been asking for that for so long. They are going to have to listen to us, and they have to make a change"

Young Consultant Aimee, 17, from Denny, Falkirk

### PUTTING RIGHTS INTO LAW - INCORPORATION OF UNCRC

Alongside children and young people, we continued to fight for your human rights to become part of our law. Having your rights in law means that when they are not respected, you can challenge this in court.

The UNCRC contains rights covering all aspects of children's lives. On 16 March, 2021, after decades of campaigning, the Scottish Parliament unanimously voted for it to become a part of our law.

But it hasn't happened yet. The Scottish Government need to do some work on the law so that it can happen. This has taken too long already, and we have worked this year to press for the work that needs to be done to make this happen.

"Incorporation of the UNCRC will give young people a sense of security and it will really benefit their quality of life. They'll feel safe in the knowledge that their rights are in law."

Young person



### #SCOTYOUTHANDCOVID

Shortly after the first lockdown began in March 2020, an organisation called A Place in Childhood (APIC) gathered young people from across Scotland (calling them Young Consultants) in a series of online workshops to find out how the pandemic was affecting them.

- In 2021, we supported APIC to continue their work with the 25 Young Consultants, aged between 11 and 17, and from Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, rural Falkirk and rural Stirlingshire.
- They reflected on their return to school in autumn 2020 and explored their experiences throughout the second lockdown which began in December 2020.
- Their second report collected their findings and highlighted their 34 Asks to the Scottish Government for meaningful change to allow them "to feel young again".
- The Asks included "redesigning assessments for national qualifications recognising that teachers have struggled in the pandemic and that they need to be supported too" schools and teachers ensuring that workloads are not overwhelming" making sure children and young people are listened to.
- The project then focused on listening to those who feel least heard over the pandemic including children with Long Covid, young carers, young people seeking asylum and younger children and children of prisoners.

The Young Consultants aim to create a 'manifesto for change' that will tell people in power what needs to happen to ensure children and young people are a key part of decision-making as the country recovers from the pandemic.

"It's important we know our rights and what to do when someone isn't upholding them."

A young person from Shetland



### EDUCATION

Due to the pandemic, young people in Scotland have now faced disruption to SQA exams and assessments in two academic years. That has severely affected the right to education.

- We continued to press Scottish Government and the SQA to do more to support young people.
- We raised concerns with the SQA that their consultation on the 2021 appeals process was not accessible to young people and did not encourage them to participate.
- In April 2021, we highlighted that the SQA's Alternative Certification Model did not respect rights and needed to take exceptional circumstances into account, just as they are in years where there isn't a global pandemic.
- We also published information about how to ask for extra support at school.

*"I feel like lessons weren't learned from the first year of the pandemic when exams were cancelled. Our teachers have tried their best but we've not had much communication from the people in charge. I've never spoken to an SQA representative in my life."*  
**Female pupil, All Saints Secondary School**

**Freedom from poverty helps all children flourish**

**"When you're poor, you give up on your dreams"**  
*Child reflecting on how living in poverty feels to them*

### POVERTY IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

Poverty needs to be addressed as it affects every single aspect of children and young people's lives, including ability to learn, mental and physical health, development, ability to socialise and engage in cultural activities and future opportunities.

In September, we responded to the Scottish Government's rapid consultation on an updated Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, highlighting that child poverty is a political choice and is avoidable.

The Commissioner went to the UK Parliament and gave evidence on child poverty targets and called to maintain the £20 uplift in Universal Credit, which the Government intended to cut (it did in October 2021).

We worked with the Poverty and Inequality Commission to ensure young people's views informed the Commission's Child Poverty Scrutiny Report 2021-22. We worked with the Commission and Aberlour to deliver three workshops with young people aged between 12 and 17, including one session with our Young Advisers Group. In the sessions, the young people explored what child poverty meant to them, their thoughts on the actions being taken to reduce child poverty and what more needs to be done to tackle it.

### CHILDREN IN PRISON

We continue to work to make Scotland a country which does not lock up children in prison.

No child should be in prison. Children need to be treated as children and we must look at what might have happened in their lives to get them to this point.

Children in prison have often had many upsetting and difficult challenges in their childhoods, like family breakdown, separation, and bereavement, and they are likely to have experienced abuse or neglect.

We helped the HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS) carry out a health and wellbeing survey on everyone under-18 in the Young Offenders Institution at Polmont and 46% of the children who took part said they felt stressed and anxious all the time. Locking up a child is the most serious thing a government can do and they have to take account of their human rights.

### CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

We've continued our work to help children in contact with the police.

In Scotland, the age at which a child can be treated as a criminal and charged by the police is only 12. This is far too young; human rights experts say that it should be at least 14 and that an even higher age is better. We will not stop pushing the Scottish Government to change this.

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN ENTERING CUSTODY

If you are under 18 and in custody, you still have human rights. No matter who you are or what you have done, you have the right to be treated fairly. That means you should get all the things you are entitled to and you should not be discriminated against if you are taken into police custody. In October, along with CYCJ, we produced a resource developed with young people currently in HMPYOI Polmont, as part of Youth Justice Voice's Inside Out participation project, called **Know Your Rights When Entering Custody**. We also have **Vietnamese, Arabic, and Polish** translations available.

### LAWS AND POLICIES

We use our human rights expertise to make sure that laws and policies that are being created or changed take into account children's human rights. This year we have submitted evidence to the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government and international bodies like the UN. We have raised concerns about lots of human rights issues including the way the UK treats children coming to the country to seek asylum for their own safety, about the right to food, about making a new national care service work for those under 18, poverty, education reform and protecting young human rights defenders.

### INVESTIGATIONS

If we believe people who make decisions, like councils, are not respecting your human rights, we can use our legal powers to investigate and demand changes.

- This year we investigated whether councils followed laws when placing children in secure care. Children should only go to secure care – where they aren't allowed to leave – if there is nowhere else they can get help. Locking children up is very serious, and councils must follow the law. Following our investigation, the Scottish Government promised to look at what's happening.
- We also started an investigation into mental health with our Young Advisers. Working as Mental Health Investigators, they are examining mental health support offered in schools.

### INTERNATIONAL WORK

This year Commissioner Bruce was Chair of the European Network of Children's Ombudspersons (ENOC) This is a group of other offices who promote and protect children's human rights and we come together to make sure that children's rights are upheld across Europe. Bruce represented ENOC at the United Nations, Council of Europe, and the EU and our Young Advisers worked with other European young people on projects.

We also met colleagues online from outside Europe, from Children's Commissioners' offices such as Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa's Western Cape to share best practice and learning. And we joined other experts on a special World Health Organization group to make sure schools in Europe stayed safe during the pandemic.

### COMMUNICATING ABOUT RIGHTS

One of the key roles of the office is to make sure that children, young people, and adults know and understand about children's human rights. We work to influence meaningful change by highlighting a vast range of rights issues to a wide range of audiences, and we've created opportunities for young people's voices to be heard in the media and offered their perspective in as much of our media work as possible.

We have spoken out about so many issues including:

- \*Impact of the pandemic
- \*vaccinations
- \*education
- \*exams and assessments
- \*mental health
- \*poverty
- \*climate justice
- \*locking children up
- \*rights of refugees and asylum seekers
- \*putting rights into law\*

We have also contributed to conferences and films to raise awareness of rights, often sharing the platform with our young advisers or giving over the space entirely to them.

*"I was really excited to come up with a design for a new Scouts badge, I love drawing and design, so thought it would be fun. My design put the Human Rights logo at the centre of the badge, as it is already a recognised symbol. Like every Scout badge, my design has the Fleur de Lis on it. I also chose to put a map of the world in the background, because children from across the world all have rights. I hope all Cubs and Scouts like my design and are all looking forward to earning the Rights Challenge Badge as much as I am."*  
**Christopher, 10, Lenzie**

### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

This year we created a Rights Challenge Badge with Scouts Scotland. Now over 20,000 Cubs and Scouts aged eight to 14 can complete activities and be empowered to know and use their rights. The badge design was chosen from a competition open to all members of Scouts Scotland.





### WAR IN UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine has a massive impact on children and young people, including Ukrainian children and families seeking safety in Scotland, Ukrainian and Russian children living in Scotland, and children and young people in Scotland, who may be worried and distressed by the coverage of the war in the media.

- We led the European Network of Children's Ombudspersons (ENOC) response to issue statements to European bodies to ensure the protection of children and families seeking safety from the conflict.
- With the other Children's Commissioners in the UK, we sent a joint letter to the Prime Minister about the UK Government response to the war and setting out what measures should happen to protect children immediately.
- We also communicated to children about how and where to get help if they are affected by the war.
- We kept in close touch with the Ukrainian Children's Commissioner to provide support to their work to promote and safeguard children's rights in Ukraine.
- We created a printable poster from a 7 Word Story which was written by a child in Scotland in 2019, which says 'Rights Matter. You Matter. Don't Lose Hope.' It was translated into Ukrainian and Russian in a message of solidarity and hope to children affected by the war: in Ukraine, in Russia and in Scotland.

It's OK to feel sad, upset or scared. But there are things you can do to help you make sense of what's happening in Ukraine.

### GETTING ADVICE

In 2021/22 people contacted us still worried about the impact of Covid-19 on human rights. We got questions about support for learning and mental health. There's not enough help available, and it can be hard to access mental health services and the pandemic has only made this worse.

You can contact us if you need advice about your human rights.  
Email [inbox@cypcs.org.uk](mailto:inbox@cypcs.org.uk) or text 0770 233 5720 (texts will be charged at your standard network rate) and we'll get back to you.

### WHAT NEXT?

We'll keep demanding that children's rights are made a part of law as well as standing up against any UK Government proposals to change your existing rights within the Human Rights Act.

We'll keep involving you in our work to make sure that your views are heard.

The Scottish Parliament will be choosing a new Commissioner in 2023 and after six years Bruce Adamson will say goodbye. But our work on mental health, poverty and climate justice will continue until 2024. You can help us choose our main issues after that.

WE WANT TO THANK ALL THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO'VE HELPED US THIS YEAR. YOU ARE ALL INCREDIBLE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS. SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR YOUNG ADVISERS. WE COULDN'T HAVE CHAMPIONED CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROPERLY WITHOUT YOU BY OUR SIDES.



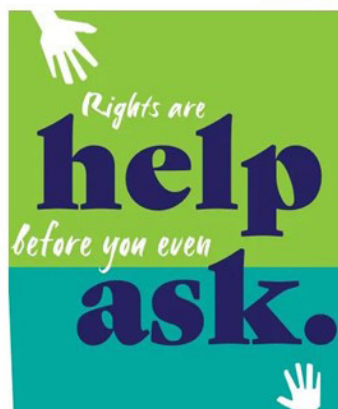
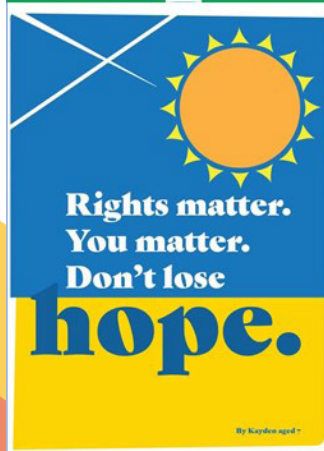
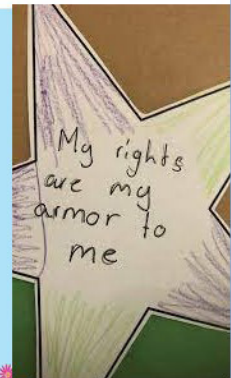
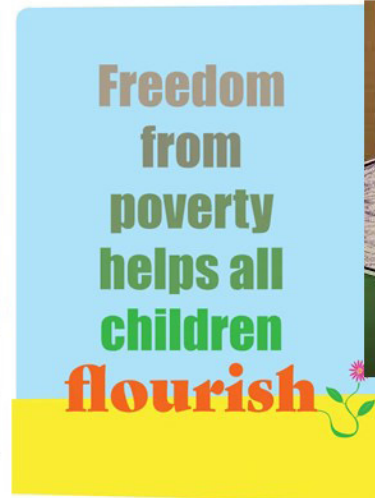
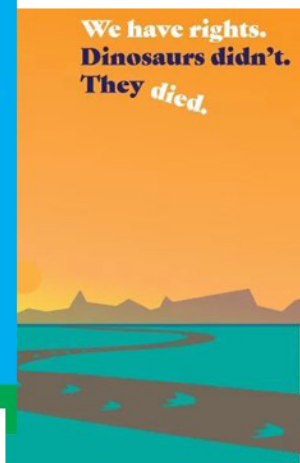
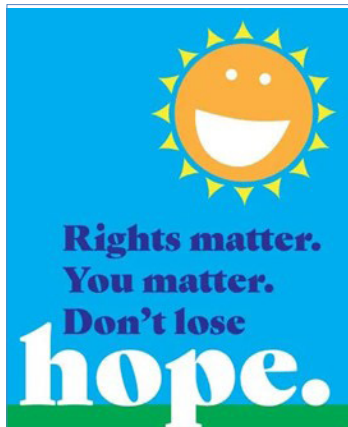
Bridgeside House  
99 McDonald Road  
Edinburgh EH7 4NS  
Tel: 0131 346 5350  
Young Persons' Freephone: 0800 019 1179  
Email: [inbox@cypcs.org.uk](mailto:inbox@cypcs.org.uk)

[cypcs.org.uk](http://cypcs.org.uk)  
[@cypcs](https://www.instagram.com/cypcs) [@cypcs](https://www.facebook.com/cypcs) [@cypcs](https://www.youtube.com/c/cypcs)

If you would like this document in another format, please let us know.

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11



#7WordStory







ombudsman  
do leanaí  
for children

## Amplifying the voices of children

OCO Ireland helping  
celebrating UNCRC  
35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in  
Taiwan

## Ireland and our child population





## Ombudsman for Children Ireland

- Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002
- Independent statutory body
- Presidential appointment
- Direct accountability to the Oireachtas



ombudsman  
do leanaí  
for children

### 1. Complaint Handling

Free, Independent & Impartial

Alternative to Court

### 2. Promotion of Children's Rights and Welfare

Promote Children's Rights

Consult children and  
highlight their concerns

Monitor and advise on  
legislation and public policy

Undertake or commission  
research



ombudsman  
do leanaí  
for children



## Children's Voices



Children's Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2022

<https://www.oco.ie/pieces-of-us/gallery/>





## Key issues from 2023 UNCRC report on Ireland

- The large number of children living in poverty including children from disadvantaged families, children of lone parents, refugee children and children of ethnic minority groups
- The intersection between poverty and discrimination, particularly among Traveller and Roma children
- The high volume of homeless families and children
- The high rates of bullying and the need to keep pace with demand for mental health services
- The need for support for children with disabilities including strengthening social inclusion, early intervention programmes and capacity building for professionals.









## National Indicators for Progress

- 1 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY**
- 2 ACHIEVING IN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
- 3 SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM**
- 4 ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY**
- 5 CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR WORLD**



<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/03f4b-children-and-young-peoples-indicator-set/>







<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K55WBimEVBw>



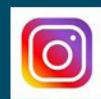
Thank You

FREEPHONE: 1800 20 20 40



ombudsman  
do leanai  
for children

T: 01 865 6800  
E: oco@oco.ie  
@OCO\_ireland  
[www.oco.ie](http://www.oco.ie)





## Mechanism for Young People to participate in public issues--Rong-Yu Liu

# How Children and Youth Engage in Public Participation

Presenter: Liu Rong-Yu



### About Me:

- I'm 19 years old, studying in the Department of Biochemical Science and Technology at Chiayi University.
- I have served as a children and youth representative for three years (though I'm a bit older now).
- I engage in educational advocacy and have established an education association with my partners.
- Despite being somewhat free-spirited, I do experience some appearance anxiety.



## How I Became a Children and Youth Representative



Me 13 years ago



In a not-so-ideal educational environment



Children and youth representative (rights advocate)

## Participation Mechanism for Children and Youth Representatives



Local governments (county and city governments)



Local Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Committees



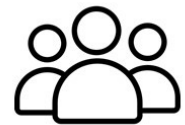
The central government



Accident and Injury Prevention and Control Team, Ministry of Health and Welfare



Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Committee, Executive Yuan



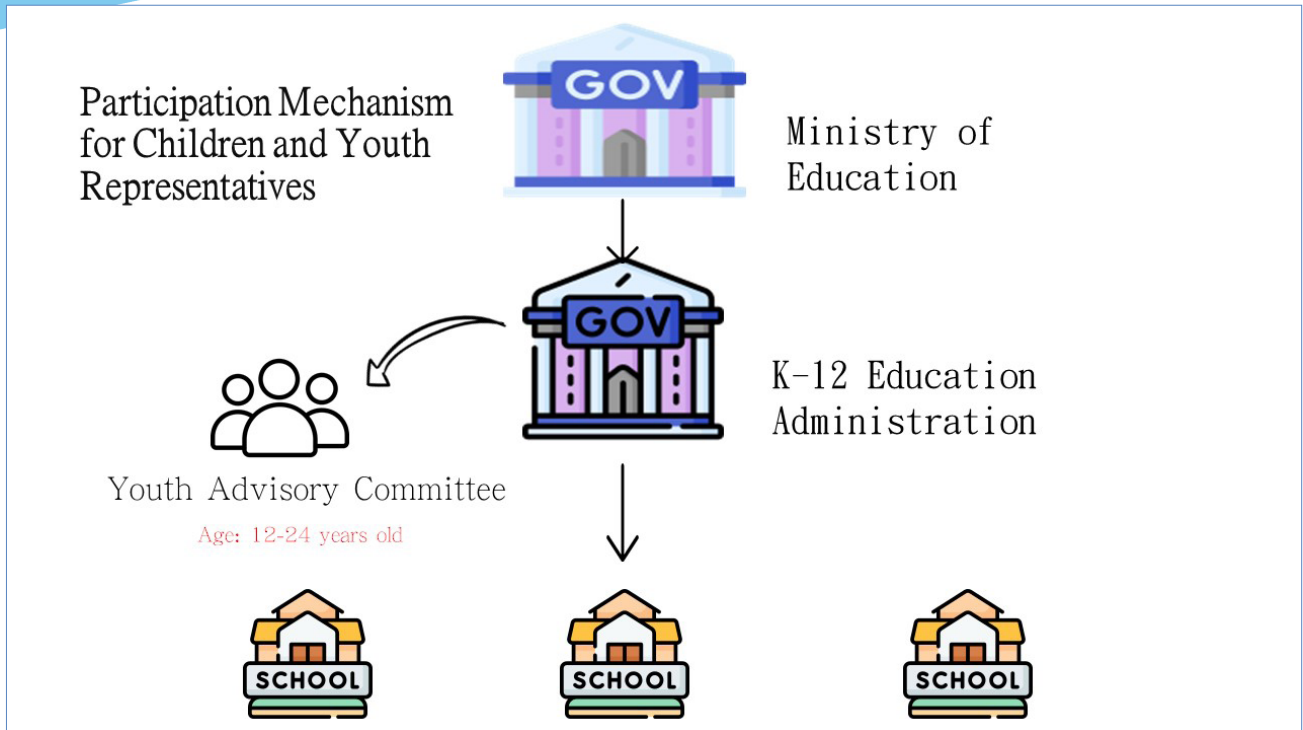
Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Committee, Ministry of Health and Welfare







## Mechanism for Young People to participate in public issues--Rong-Yu Liu



### How Children and Youth Initially Become Representatives



Local governments (county and city governments)

Regular selection of children and youth representatives occurs once or twice a year (depending on local regulations).

- The county and city governments specify the age range of representatives to be between 0-20 years.
- During local selection, factors considered include special identities, age, gender ratio, and issues the candidates focus on

select and recommend representatives to

Each local government recommends three representatives to join the **Central Children and Youth Delegation**.

- Delegation members must be under 18 at the time of appointment.
- Term lasts for two years.



The Central Children and Youth Delegation



### The Process of Children and Youth Generating and Expressing Opinions:



The Central Children and Youth Delegation gathers local opinions



Consults with experts



Lobbies adult committee members

### How the Taiwanese Government Listens to Children and Youth Opinions:

- In Taiwan, not every government department includes children and youth participation.
- Currently, only the Executive Yuan, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Education, and local governments have established specialized children and youth committees.



Friendly meetings

- Children and youth only need to present the issues they have identified.
- Adult committee members will provide feedback and exchange opinions.
- Officials will make every effort to assist children and youth.



Unfriendly meetings

- Officials respond with bureaucratic language.
- Authorities only refer to their past policies as feedback.
- Children and youth feel their opinions are not valued.
- Children and youth need to gather information or collect signatures.





## Mechanism for Young People to participate in public issues--Rong-Yu Liu

Do You Remember This? (I Know I'm Cute, but Please Look at the Circle on the Right)



Me 13 years ago



In a not-so-ideal educational environment



Children and youth representative (rights advocate)

## Current Situation of Children and Youth Expressing Their Opinions in Taiwan



Formal meetings



Bureaucratic systems and language



Official document terminology





We Are Currently Facing a Significant Change

Your Shot Photograph by James Smart

### The Central Children and Youth Delegation System Is About to Be Broken Down



The Central Children and Youth Delegation

Originally, representatives who could join the committee meetings were elected by children and youth themselves. Now, the selection will be done by the government. Additionally, for the five children and youth committee members in each Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Committee, the government will prioritize appointing one member each from the following groups: those with disabilities, those with indigenous identities, and those under 15 years old.

The age restriction has changed from being under 18 **at the time of appointment** to being under 18 **throughout the term**.

Originally, each county and city would recommend three representatives to join the central delegation. This has now changed to allowing only children and youth who are already serving as committee members to be in the delegation.





## Mechanism for Young People to participate in public issues--Rong-Yu Liu



What Are We Anxious and Afraid Of?



For the five children and youth committee members in each Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Committee, the government will prioritize appointing one member each from the following groups: those with disabilities, those with indigenous identities, and those under 15 years old.

What about other disadvantaged groups?



Formal meetings



Originally, each county and city would recommend three representatives to join the central delegation. This has now changed to allowing only children and youth who are already serving as committee members to be in the delegation.

Local representation?  
Support from peers?



Unfriendly bureaucratic system



The age restriction has changed from being under 18 **at the time of appointment** to being under 18 **throughout the term**. The term lasts for two years per appointment.

Who will represent the age group of 16-18?



### What Have We Done?



We' ve gathered signatures from hundreds of children and youth representatives.



We' ve lobbied legislators and adult committee members in meetings.



We' ve held multiple coordination meetings.



Thank you for listening.







## Scottish Youth Parliament & the UNCRC



### Why we're here

- Who the Scottish Youth Parliament are
  - Scotland's children's rights journey
  - Incorporation and implementation of the UNCRC
  - Where SYP fit in
- 





## About SYP

SYP is the democratic voice of Scotland's young people. Our vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its young people.



## SYP's Values



1 Democracy

3

Inclusion and Diversity

2 Rights

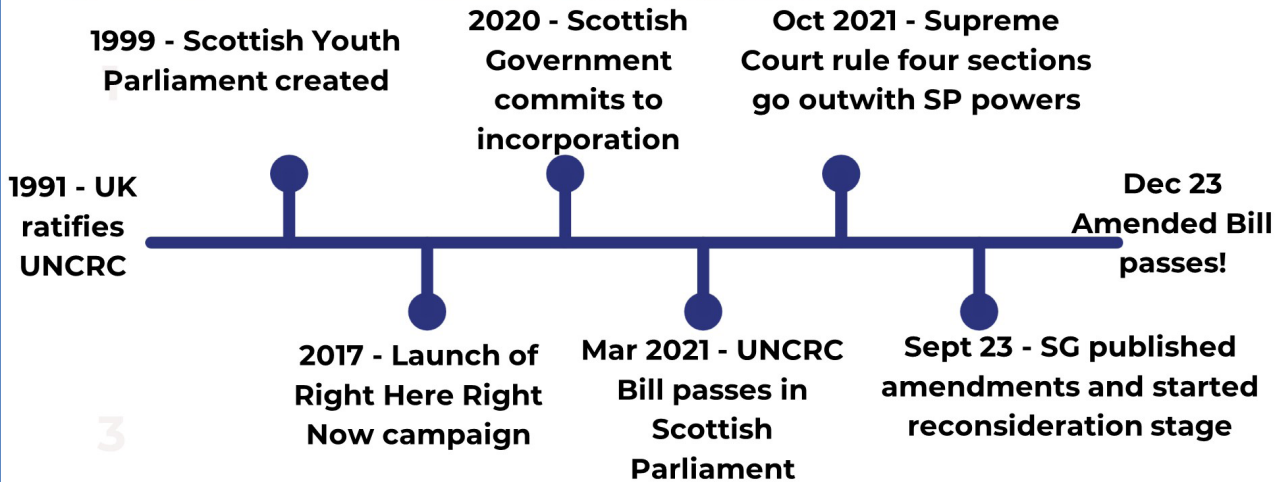
4

Political Impartiality





## Timeline of SYP & the UNCRC



## UNCRC Bill passes!



- 1 Right Here Right Now Campaign
- 2 Rights journey
- 3 But, this only matters if incorporation leads to change

“ I have waited so long that the protections in the UNCRC don't even apply to me anymore





## Why participation?



1

It's not a gift or a favour, it's a right

2

Article 12 underpins the UNCRC - meaningful participation is needed to uphold other rights

3

More inclusive and effective decisions & policies

“  
Nothing about us, without us  
”

## Why now?



1

UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Act

2

Young people told us too much engagement is tokenistic or non-existent

3

Need for young people's rights protection as great as it's ever been.





# The Right Way project

## The Right Way Hub



**Resources**

**Case studies**

**FAQs**

**Experiences**



## Article 12 training



1

Free online training developed by young people to give adults with duties the key information they need

2

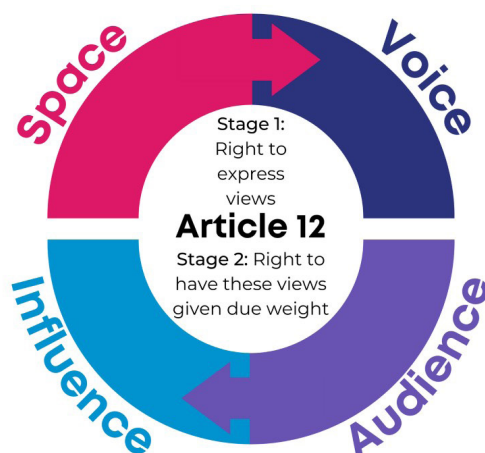
It covers:

- What is the UNCRC
- What is meaningful participation & Theory
- Barriers to participation
- Feedback & feedback loops

## The Lundy Model of Participation



The Lundy Model of Participation was designed by Professor Laura Lundy. It uses 4 elements to explain Article 12 of the UNCRC in action.







## AIM the Right Way



1

Checklists for decision-makers to use when planning participation

2

They help ensure participation is Accessible, Inclusive, and Meaningful



# What's next?



## 1. Support

Young people are experts in their own experiences.

They need to be the ones who determine how participation is designed.



## 2. Challenge

When we see young people not being taken seriously, we'll challenge it.

Every year we meet with the Scottish Government's Cabinet and Executive Team, which is a key opportunity to challenge.





### 3. Full incorporation

The UNCRC Act we now have in Scotland does not go as far as we wanted.

We'll be working in the long term to ensure that children and young people's rights are fully protected in law.

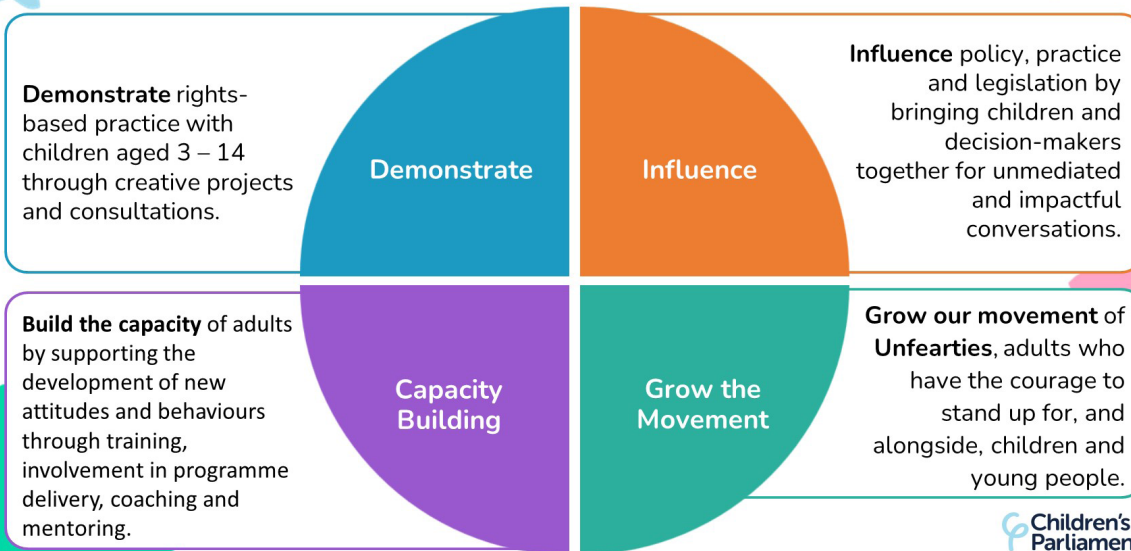


A note from  
our partners

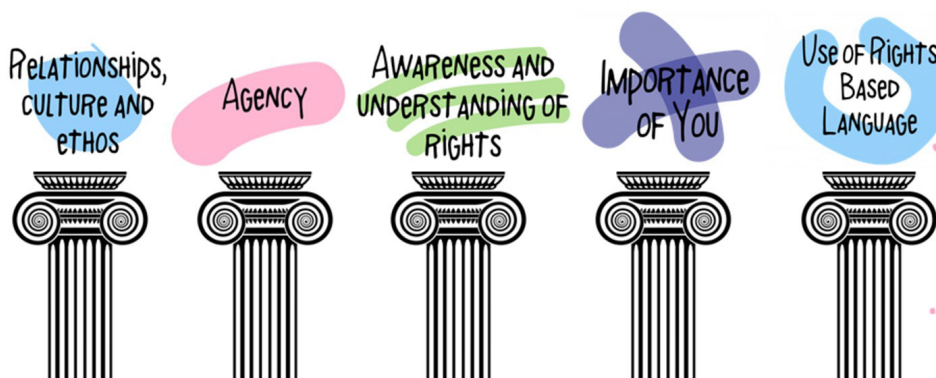




**Mission:** Our dream is that children grow up in a world of **love, happiness and understanding.**



### 5 Pillars of Rights-Based Practice





### Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)

An NGO alliance with approximately 600 members working to improve the awareness, understanding and implementation of children's human rights in Scotland.

#### Vision:

Scotland becomes a place where every baby, child and young person grows up in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

#### Mission:

Working with our membership, we act to ensure that all babies, children and young people growing up in Scotland have all their human rights respected, protected, and fulfilled.

#### 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, including through our [#RightsonTrack campaign](#).



Scan here to read more on our website:



Website: [www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter! @together\_sacr



## UNICEF in Scotland

### Our child rights journey

- UNCRC Act (2024) Scotland
- UNICEF UK Programmes
  - Rights Respecting School Awards: Currently 79% of schools in Scotland are engaged in the programme
  - Baby Friendly Initiative: Scotland leads the way, the programme supports maternity, neonatal, health visiting and children's centre services, ensuring they are giving new-borns and their families the best possible care. All maternity units across Scotland Baby Friendly are accredited.
- Policy and Advocacy

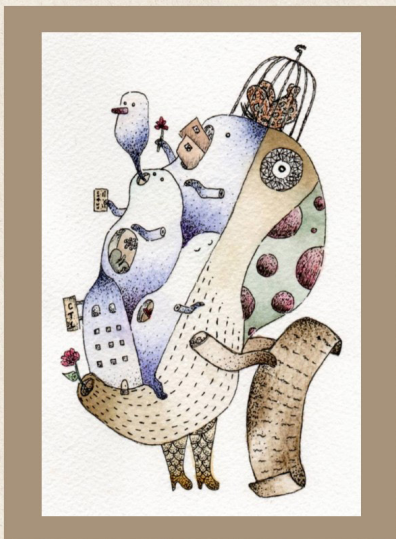






# Empowerment Mechanism for Children and Youth

Cheng Tyan-li  
2024.08.21



*Dream Collector 2023*

## Cheng Tyan-li

#Homeschooler #AnimalsAndPlants  
#Creator

\* Former children and youth representative/committee member of the 5th and 6th Tainan City Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Committees.

\* Former and current children and youth representative/committee member of the 1st and 2nd Child and Youth Welfare and Rights Committees at the Ministry of Health and Welfare and Executive Yuan.





## How I Was Enlightened to Engage in Public Participation

2018

# Children and Youth Representative Mechanism in Taiwan



Local(county and city) governments



The central government







# Cultivation

## Tainan City's Children and Youth Representatives



# Training

## The Central Children and Youth Delegation



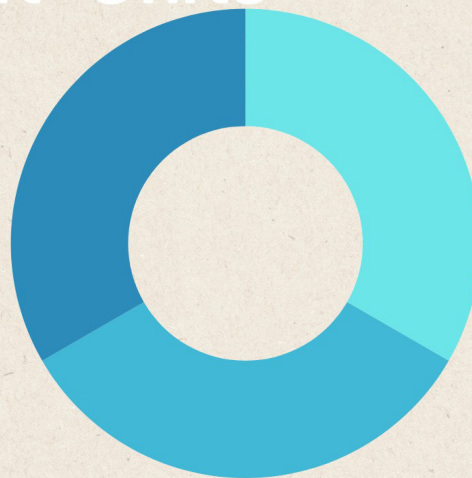




**Why is “empowerment”  
so important for  
children and youth?**

## Empowerment Units

**Administrative  
Affairs**



**Support and  
Companionship**

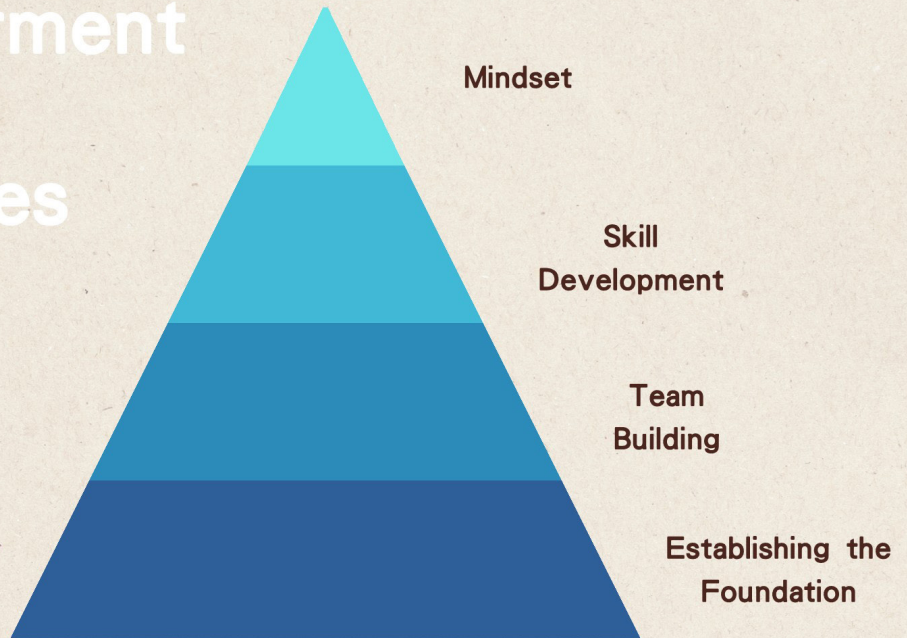
**Expert Information X Resource Matching**





# Empowerment

Includes



# The Power of Empowerment

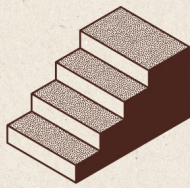






# Empowerment

## Is More Than Just Empowering

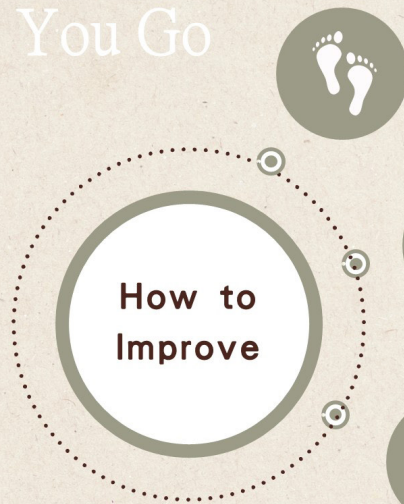


Accumulation



Practice

Do as You Learn  
Improve as You Go



“Understanding” leads to  
“comprehension”

Encouraging diverse forms  
of expression and  
participation

Becoming Familiar  
through Mock Meetings







**Public participation has no limits;  
We can all engage in public  
participation in “our own ways.”**

**Cheng Tyan-li  
Thank you~**