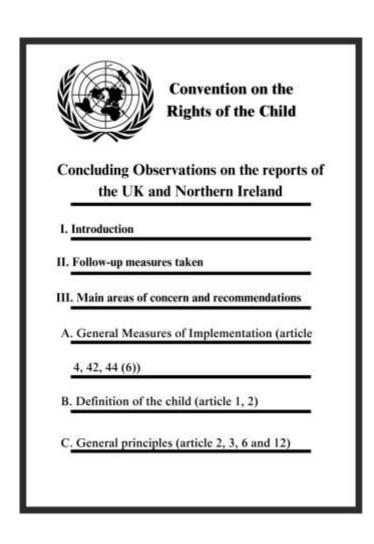


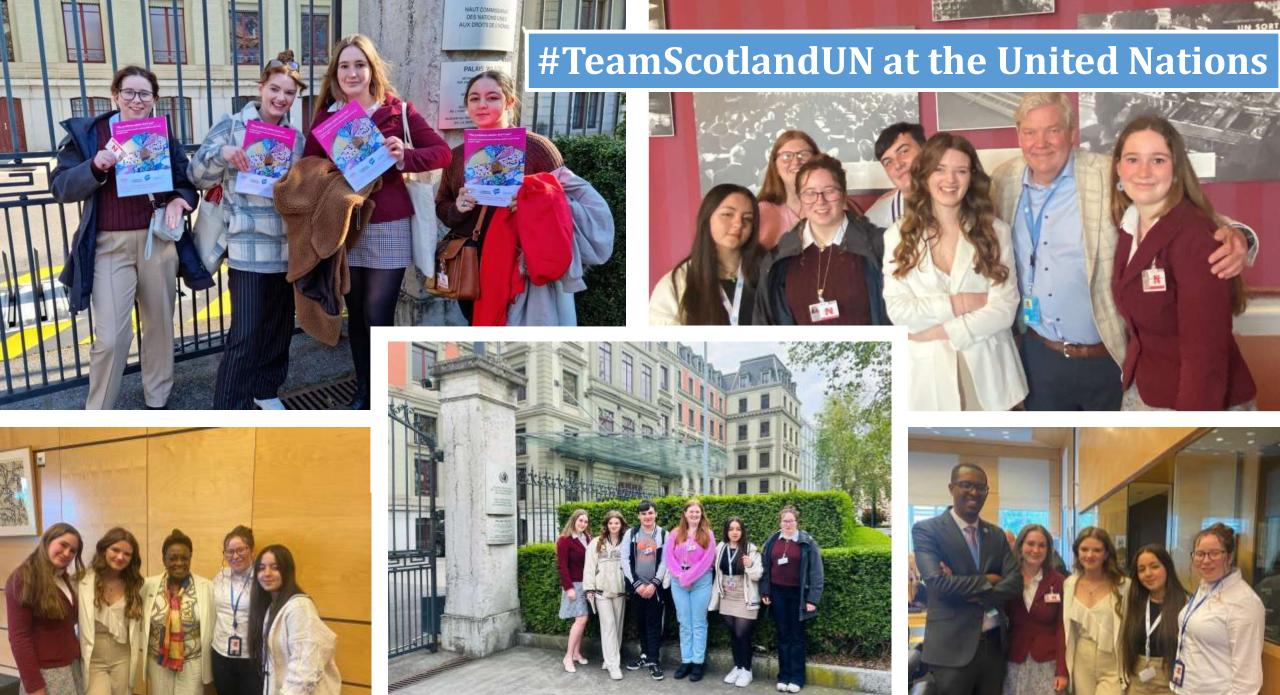
Research Network Update - November 2024



What is #RightsOnTrack?







UNCRC Concluding Observations 2023

Almost 200 recommendations to further children's human rights across Scotland and the wider UK....

"...end child poverty and ensure that all children have an adequate standard of living, including by increasing social benefits to reflect the rising cost of living and abolishing the two-child limit and benefit cap for social security benefits"

"Strengthen measures to address food insecurity... (i) ensuring all children's access to nutritious foods and reducing their reliance on food banks... (ii) expanding the free school meals programme to all children in disadvantaged situations... (iii) addressing the root causes of food insecurity, including poverty"



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Committee on the Rights of the Child

Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

I. Introduction

- The Committee considered the combined sixth and seventh reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* at its 2716th and 2717th meetings, beld on 18 and 19 May 2023, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 2728th meeting, held on 26 May 2023.
- The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined sixth and seventh reports of the State party, under the simplified reporting procedure, which allowed for a better understanding of the situation of children's rights in the State party. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the delegation of the State party.
- 3. Where not otherwise stated, the present recommendations are addressed to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the jurisdiction of England, and, where relevant mandates fall under their jurisdiction, to the governments of the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

II. Follow-up measures taken and progress achieved by the State party

4. The Committee welcomes the various measures to implement the Convention, including the prohibition of marriage under 18 years of age in England and Wales; the lowering of the voting age to 16 years in Wales; the prohibition of corporal punishment in Scotland and Jersey; the abolition of the defence of reasonable punishment in Wales; the passing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill by the Scotlands Parliament in 2021; the adoption of a Chaldren and Young People's Strategy and the establishment of a Youth Assembly in Northern Ireland; the extension of the Convention and its first and second Optional Protocols to Guerney and Alderney; and the establishment of a Children's Commissioner in Jersey. It also welcomes the ratification of the Council of Europe Conventions on protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in 2018 and on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in 2022.





^{*} For adoption by the Committee at its ninety-third session (8-26 May 2023).

¹ CRC/C/GBR/6

² See CRC/C/SR. 2716 and CRC/C/SR. 2717

The UK's 'to do' list:

UNCRC in law Human Rights Act Action plans Budgets Access to justice Age of the child Data Discrimination Transgender children Marriage age Religious observance Freedom of assembly and association Physical punishment Restraint, seclusion and harmful devices Child victims Childcare Young carers Care Experience Children with a parent in prison Disabled children Child poverty Mental health Climate change Right to play Education Migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children Child-justice Armed forces recruitment



Scottish Government response

Published in March 2024

"The contents of this document reflect our absolute commitment to ensuring that children and young people across Scotland can fully experience their rights."

Natalie Don MSP - Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Scottish Government Initial Response to the Concluding Observations issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

March 2024







UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

Proactive at promoting children's rights

- Protect the UNCRC rights of all children under 18 years old
- Public authorities and those commissioned to deliver public services must act compatibly with UNCRC
- Children's Scheme: participation, awareness, budgeting and child rights impact assessments
- Ministers to conduct Child Rights Impact Assessments
- Compliance reports by Ministers and public authorities
- Scrutiny by children, young people, Children and Young People's Commissioner, Scottish Parliament, civil society.

Accountable for upholding children's rights

- Children can complain if their rights aren't being protected
- No time limits on proceedings until children reach the age of 18 years old
- Courts can decide if laws follow the UNCRC
- The Children and Young People's Commissioner can help if someone wants to complain their rights are not being protected
- A court can tell organisations to change what they are doing, if the court agrees that they are not protecting children's rights





Research Network Update – November 2024

