



AN INTERNATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THE UNCRC
GOING FORWARD IN SCOTLAND

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*“Adults have
power over
children. Children
aren’t as
respected.”*

Maxine, John and Stones
(all 12 years old)

(February 3, 2010 Focus Group, cited in Collins, 2013, 591)

“Listening isn’t
enough;
adults must act
on our concerns”.

Young person, cited in Landon Pearson Resource Centre
for the Study of Childhood and Children’s Rights, 2007, 5

PRESENTATION QUESTION:

*How should Scotland
continue to advance
children's rights &
who should be involved?*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the UNCRC's general measures of implementation provide the focus to Scotland for going forward.

AGENDA

1. Background about general measures
2. Education, awareness & training
3. Monitoring
4. Budgeting
5. Coordination
6. Plan of action



1. BACKGROUND ABOUT UNCRRC'S GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION (GMIS) (COLLINS & WOLFF, 2012):

- “Governance architecture” (UNICEF Canada, 2010, 5), incl. UNCRRC Committee’s general measures of implementation, facilitates advancement & implementation of the child’s rights to survival, protection, development and participation.
- helps ensure accountability for children’s rights.

GMIS (UNICEF, 2005):

- law reform and jurisprudence;
- independent national human rights institutions;
- international cooperation;
- ratification & implementation of other relevant international standards;

GMIS (UNICEF, 2005) (CONT'D):

- budgeting;
- national plans of action;
- monitoring processes and mechanisms;
- the right to education, awareness & training;
- coordination efforts & mechanisms; &
- participation of civil society in CRC implementation.

2. EDUCATION, AWARENESS & TRAINING

UNCRC article 42: children's rights must be "widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike".

- Applicable to children and adults across society
- Efforts should be accessible and meaningful.
- Isolated efforts must be scaled up & sustainability over time=critical.

3. MONITORING

=collection and analysis of data to ascertain situation of children's rights & reporting the results (Collins, 2008).

- should examine the situation of children & the state of the laws, policies, budgets & other measures
- Hammarberg (1993): UNCRC Committee= "monitor of monitors".

MONITORING (CONTINUED):

- Different national examples highlight various ways to collect national data.
- Disaggregate data by age, gender, social or ethnic background, region and rural or urban residence to identify situation of marginalized groups.

MONITORING (CONT'D)

- Local, regional, national & int'l monitoring
- Self-monitoring & independent monitoring
- Two Canadian boys describe that additional participation is needed:

“To get accurate information from the parties involved and to have proof that directives [of the Convention] are being followed.Monitoring is important...to get many diverse opinions” (cited in Collins, 2008, 6-7).

- Consult & collect information from children but also involve children in the process (Collins, 2015).

4. BUDGETING

=allocate funds to implement policies, programs and respond to issues in society.

- But how often is the connection made between these allocations and children and their human rights?
- Are these allocations monitored to ascertain their impact?

BUDGETING (CONTINUED):

Chelsea Howard (2005, 7-8), a Canadian youth:

“We say we value children—but what do our actions and decisions reflect?

Every day decisions are made to allocate resources, but when it comes to living up to our obligations to children under the Convention, I have to question if we truly value children as we say we do?”

BUDGETING (CONTINUED):

- A children's budget would “reveal the degree to which children are treated equitably on the basis of age, geography, ethnicity and other meaningful criteria; and it would be publicly available and monitored by government and by civil society” (Collins & Wolff, 2012, 15).
- Other actors within society should support better budgeting by government & others in accordance with children's rights (Collins & Wolff, 2014).

5. COORDINATION

- Maximize efforts related to children's rights & avoid duplication
- Government: within and across departments
- Civil society: valuable efforts exist but must receive ongoing attention & expansion over time

6. PLAN OF ACTION

- To organize & realize UNCRC implementation progress over time
- Needs clear objectives, identification of resources, roles & responsibilities, as well as timelines
- GMIs provides guidance about what should be included

7. CONCLUSION

- It is recommended that the UNCRC's general measures of implementation provide Scotland's focus for going forward.
- Caution that actors not focus on any one piece as "the solution" for UNCRC progress. A comprehensive approach is needed to create the culture required to support efforts & actors for progress.

IMPORTANCE OF CHILD RIGHTS IN DECISION-MAKING

“The way a child is treated by a society is an indication of what that society is all about.”

Young person, cited in Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights (2007), 11.



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