



State of Children's Rights Webinar Series: Civil Rights and Freedoms

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Children and Coronavirus [bit.ly/Coronavirus Kids](https://bit.ly/Coronavirus_Kids)

How are you doing? national wellbeing survey

The Corona Times Journal

Children and Coronavirus bit.ly/Coronavirus_Kids

Some key learning

I use to feel quite good most days. Now, some days are better, some days are worse. What's better is having more time with my family, more time at home, more time playing games. What's worse is that some days I just have a good day but some days I just feel sad all day. I just wake up feeling sad. That didn't really happen before lockdown. I think it's because I'm not seeing my friends now.
(Zoomer, age 10) Corona Times Journal 2

- Across all areas (April to May) there is a small but noticeable decline in the wellbeing of children. This is particularly true for girls, and especially for girls aged 12 to 14. Fewer generally feel cheerful and in a good mood and they have less energy. Children are increasingly feeling lonely and less sure that in difficult times they will be okay.
- Learning at home: Children are reporting less choice and a declining sense of fun or pride in work and increased levels of boredom. They are increasingly worried about doing schoolwork and learning at home. Older children, 12 to 14 years old, are less likely to see learning at home positively.
- Most children can access information, express opinions and experience their rights. However there are indications of a decline in these areas which is of importance in our preparedness for incorporation of the UNCRC.

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Some key learning

Maybe they could comfort children who have been feeling sad during quarantine too – before we come into the classroom, when we're back, we could say hi to the teacher and the teacher could say hi to us. Or give a high five! I'm quite excited because I'll be able to play with my friends again.

(Ringtone, age 10) Corona Times

Journal 3

- Most children are safe and happy at home but for those children who are not, the experience of lockdown may intensify concerns or worries.
- Children are increasingly worried about a number of things. Most children have someone at home or external to their family to speak to, but a significant number indicate they do not have someone.
- Children identify a number of things that support their wellbeing and help them feel good at the moment; as time passes, they are identifying fewer things that make them feel good. Parents and carers are central to children's wellbeing.

Civil rights and freedoms enshrine children's rights to freedom of association and to express themselves. They also include the right to have their privacy protected.

I like that I can just work at my own pace. I feel that we are rushed too much sometimes at school. I can take things step by step at home... They should ask us how we feel about returning, make sure we feel ok about it, are not upset. I am really excited about returning to school. Because I will see my friends. I think we should go back after summer because at least we will be safe. (B. Baggins, age 12)

Corona Times Journal 3

I hate this way of learning now. There is nothing good about it. I haven't enjoyed learning at home. (Creative Songstress age 14)

Corona Times Journal 3

- We have all had our right to freedom of association with others curtailed. Children have not been able to associate with peers, any spaces where they would be autonomous or free from adults – playing outside, free time in the school day – have all been restricted. Children with limited access to technology have been isolated from peers for a considerable time.
- We know from children engaged in CP programmes that while the vast majority have some online access (perhaps a smart phone in the house, a tablet) it may be shared or not adequate for school work (poor internet connectivity).
- Our May survey results tell us that fewer than half of children feel they have a choice in what they are learning. 1 in 4 children do not agree that they have fun things to do in their day. 1 in 10 report they do not have opportunities to be creative.
- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 5 younger children (8 to 11 year olds) do not feel safe when they are online.

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I want adults to understand that they could be a bit more supportive. They should talk to children a bit more and ask them how they are doing. If a child isn't doing well just ask them how they're not doing well and try to help to make them feel better. I'd want everyone to be healthier, keeping good hygiene and make sure everyone knows how to stay safe. (Zoomer, age 10) Corona Times Journal 4

- While most children say they can they can look for and get information that they need, 1 in 10 cannot.
- 1 in 4 children do not feel free to express their ideas and opinions.
- 1 in 5 do not feel their rights are respected by others.
- 1 in 5 children do not agree that they can have privacy when they want to be alone.
- 1 in 10 children do not know who to speak to if they have a question about their health (25% say they do worry about their health). 1 in 10 do not have a family member they can speak to about their health; 1 in 4 do not have someone outside their family to talk to about a health worry.