

RIGHTS

RIGHT

NOW!

CHILDREN'S REPORT



Hello!

- Welcome to the Rights Right Now! report.
- Right Right Now! was a project that involved children and young people across Scotland.
- Often adults have all the power and children don't have much of a say. Rights Right Now! went on a mission to change this so that children share this power with adults.
- Rights Right Now! helped adults in the Scottish Government learn how to include children and young people in decisions that affect them.
- This report looks at what Rights Right Now! got up to and what needs to happen next!

Children's human rights are about what children need to grow up happy, healthy and safe. They are written down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (or 'UNCRC' for short). Children have lots of rights in the UNCRC - including the right to be heard in decisions that affect them.

The Scottish Government say they **want to make the UNCRC part of the law**. It's important that the Scottish Government listens to children and young people to make sure they get things right!

Who took part?

- 14 children and young people from six different organisations. They were aged 10-17.
- Adults and children worked together on the project. Over time, children and young people led some of the activities in the sessions.
- Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) helped to lead the project. Together is a children's charity.



What did they do?

- Rights Right Now! met seven times between October 2021 and March 2022.
- All of these meetings were online.
- At each meeting, children and young people were joined by adults from Scottish Government and the Strategic Implementation Board.



The **Scottish Government** is a group of adults who run the country.

The **Strategic Implementation Board** is a group of adults who are helping to make children's rights part of the law. Some of them work for the Scottish Government, others work for the police, hospitals, housing and children's charities.

It's **all** of these adults' jobs to make sure children have their rights.

Before each meeting...

Together created activities and asked children and young people some questions. This helped children and young people feel ready for the meetings.



During the meetings...

Rights Right Now! spoke about what they thought adults need to do to make sure all children have their rights all of the time.

Rights Right Now! also spoke about what's important to them and what adults should do. Some of these things were mental health, climate change and care-experience.

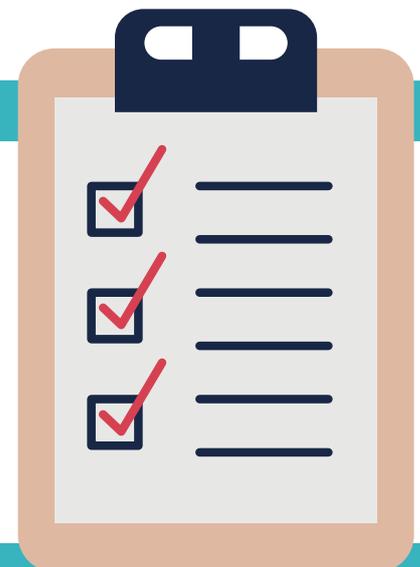
Rights Right Now! tried out new ideas – like a small group working with Scottish Government to start developing a campaign that will help everyone in Scotland know about children's rights.

After each meeting...

Everyone involved was asked what went well and if they had any ideas about how to make future meetings better. Together learned from this feedback and tried to include these ideas in future meetings.

At the end of the project...

Together wrote a report with everything Rights Right Now! had discovered. Together sent this report to the Scottish Government so they can remember what they need to do next.



What needs to happen next?

- The Scottish Government want to make sure children and young people have a say in decisions that affect them. This includes the plans to make children's human rights part of the law.
- The Scottish Government are setting up a new project to help children and young people have their say. This project will run for two or three years.
- Rights Right Now! had lots of ideas about how the new project should work. Here are some of the things they said:

At the start of the project...



Everyone needs to agree what will happen.

Children and adults need to work together to decide what the project is (and isn't!), what it will do, who will be involved and how things will work. It should be someone's job to check that everyone sticks to this - probably someone independent (who isn't part of the project).



Plan meetings at times that work for children.

Meetings shouldn't get in the way of school or dinner time.



Make sure there's time to get to know each other.

Meetings should be in-person and online.



Make sure there's enough money.

Projects need money and materials to help them run properly and so that they can create work that children are proud of.



Get training.

Everyone needs to understand children's human rights and how to help children have their voices heard.

During meetings...



Children need to feel safe and supported.

Trusted adults can help with this but it's important there aren't too many adults!



Let children lead.

This could be deciding what the meeting should be about, leading the activities and discussions, or helping to make sure everyone has a say.



Try different things.

Children take part in different ways – try art, craft, music, games and more! Ask children for ideas.



Make things child-friendly.

Information should be easy for children to understand. Pictures and videos can help.

Adults coming to meetings should...



Listen to what children say.

Ask what children liked and didn't like. Try your very best to do things better.



Spread the word.

Tell other important adults what children have said so they can do something too.



Let children know what's happening.

Give child-friendly information and feedback about how and why children's ideas have or haven't been taken forward.

And a few other things...



Reward the experts.

Children should get a reward for sharing their ideas and helping adults. Children and adults should agree what the reward should be – for example a voucher or cash.



Remember that children have busy lives

It should be up to them to choose how much they want to get involved and what meetings to go to.