



# The Rights Detectives Mission update

**AUTHORISED ACCESS**

## We are the Rights Detectives!

We are a group of six children and young people aged 11-17 who are passionate about defending human rights.

Welcome to our mission update that tells you what we've been investigating!



## What are human rights?

Human rights are about things children and young people 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 and young people have lots of rights in the UNCRC – including the right to be involved in decisions that affect us.

We also have rights under other special agreements that the UK has signed.

## What are we investigating?

Scottish Government wants to make a new human rights law for Scotland.

The new law will create extra protections for disabled people, Black, Brown, and minority ethnic people, and women and girls. It will also protect the right to a healthy environment!

Scottish Government asked for our advice to help them write the new law. Our ideas will help make sure the new law has the best possible impact on children and young people's lives.

## Why are our investigations important?

We know that some children and young people are more at risk of having their rights broken. This includes

- Children who have come to live in Scotland from a different country
- Black and Brown children and young people
- Babies and younger children
- Disabled children and young people
- LGBTQ+ children and young people
- Those who live in the countryside



It's really important that the new Human Rights Bill protects **all** children and young people.

We carried out investigations to look at where children's rights are being protected and where they are not. We spoke to lots of people and gathered recommendations on what Scottish Government should do.

## Getting started!

Before we started our first investigations, we had some training to learn more about human rights and Scottish Government's ideas for the new law.

The adults who support us created a 'Detectives Pack' with lots of helpful information and resources in it.



We thought carefully about who would be best to speak to. We made a list of **people we knew personally (yellow post-its)**, **children and young people it was important to speak to (blue post-its)** and **organisations that could help us do this (pink post-its)**.

We also looked at what children and young people had already said about their human rights. This meant we could avoid asking questions that children and young people had already answered lots of times before.

## Results from our missions!

### Mission #1

In our first mission, we spoke to friends, family, children in two primary schools and other groups of people! Here are some of the places they live!

We heard from 84 children and young people, aged 9-17, from all over Scotland.

Here's what we asked and some examples of they what they said.



? **What would it be like to live in Scotland if it was the fairest and best place in the world for everyone?**

“there would be no bullying, no racism and everyone's rights would be upheld.”

“Lots of people would want to come here and everyone would be getting everything they need. It would be a more diverse country. More like a place you would want to be.”

“there would be less discrimination and rules would be fair”

“All children would get access to what they needed to help improve their performance in their education and they would be listened to”

? **What would be different for children and young people if Scotland was the fairest and best place in the world?**

“it would make people feel safer, with more freedom, less abuse [physical and verbal] and less people being exposed to drugs.”

Children and young people said it would make sure families have food, clothing, and warm housing. Children living in the countryside, villages and small towns would all be able to use the new free bus travel scheme.

Some children and young people were worried that being the best place in the world might attract lots of people to move here, making Scotland overcrowded.



What difference would it make for children and young people if Scottish Government puts extra rights into law in Scotland - especially rights for women and girls, disabled people, Black and Brown children and families (people from minority ethnic groups)?

“combatting racism in Scotland”

“It would make Scotland a better place overall with less disadvantages, especially for women as things like pay gaps would be taken away.”

“would ensure those with disabilities have equal opportunities and are comfortable in Scotland”



What difference would it make for children and young people if Scotland put extra rights into Scottish law, so everyone has the right to a healthy environment?

“it would make a huge difference to people’s mental health, especially children and young people, creating “happier and more comfortable children in Scotland.”

“could lead the way for further social change, making people love their country more, encouraging self-expression and stopping climate change.”



What should the Scottish Government do to make sure they hear from children and young people, so their views and ideas help shape the Bill (from the beginning to the end)?



Offer a wide range of ways for children and young people to respond to consultations. Use games, drawings, voice messages and more!



Talk directly with children and young people through schools, community groups, colleges, universities, local youth groups and more!

# Results from our missions!

## Mission #2

In our second mission we designed some workshops to do with other children and young people. So far, we've spoken to 19 children and young people, aged 11 - 18 years old.

Can you think of some examples when children and young people's rights might get broken?

When speaking with government on panels

On the way to school



At sports coaching sessions



At school

How would a child or young person know their rights weren't respected?

"people would need to know their rights - otherwise they would just think that it is normal."

"need to re-educate adults who break rights - so they know policies and know about children's rights."

What do you think should happen if children or young people's rights are broken?

"If it's serious then involve the police. But if it's not so serious then talk to them and explain what is wrong etc, then use more serious options if needed"

Children and young people were in general agreement that it depended on "what kind of right it is."

Who should help?

"a safe /trusted person to help them to speak up."



## ? What should they do?

We heard lots of ideas of what Scottish Government should do, including:



Consider creating a child/youth ambassadors programme to share information, feedback and ideas between children and young people in Scotland and the government.



Ensure issues raised by children and young people are shared with appropriate government departments (e.g. transport).



Raise awareness to make sure that all babies, children, young people and adults in Scotland know about the new Human Rights Bill and what it means for them and Scotland as a whole.



Be open to direct communications from children and young people including through children's letters and emails. Ensure fast, accessible and child-friendly responses to children and young people.

## ? What do you think should happen if things don't change?

So far, we have identified a range of people who should help when people's rights are broken. We're planning on investigating this question more!

For example, Members of Scottish Parliament "should be respecting rights and showing that in action, learning from times when they make mistakes."

"if things don't get better - sack them!"

If you'd like to find out more about our investigations then please get in touch with Jacqui who works at Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)



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together

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