



Implementing and monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Scotland - Seminar Series 2017

Seminar Two – the UNCRC in Practice

Monday 20th March 2017

Scottish Universities Insight Institute, Collins Building, G1 1XQ

9.30–10.00am	Registration with teas and coffees
10.00-10.10am	Context of the seminar series Fiona Jones (Chair of Together)
10.10-10.15am	Welcome Tam Baillie (Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland) <i>Morning session Chaired by Fiona Ross MSYP and Mahnoor Shah MSYP</i>
10.15-10.20am	Welcome and overview of today's seminar Fiona Ross MSYP and Mahnoor Shah MSYP
10.20-10.50am	Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool and international experiences Gerison Lansdown (international expert on children and young people's participation)
10.50–11.00am	Teas and coffees
11.00–12.00pm	Workshop - Rights in Practice: A rights-based approach to Bullying The Children's Parliament
12.00-1.00pm	Workshop - 1,000 Voices Campaign Who Cares? Scotland
1.00-1.45pm	Lunch <i>Afternoon session Chaired by Cathy McCulloch, the Children's Parliament</i>
1.45-2.45pm	Workshop - Putting Article 12 into practice and UNCRC reporting The Scottish Youth Parliament
2.45-2.55pm	Teas and coffees
2.55-3.10pm	Gerison Lansdown answering children and young people's questions
3.10-3.40pm	Interactive table session and input with delegates
3.40-3.50pm	Key messages and thoughts Tam Baillie (Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland)
3.50-4.00pm	Closing remarks and Chairs' close The Children's Parliament, Who Cares? Scotland and the Scottish Youth Parliament



Implementing and monitoring the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Scotland: 2017 SUII Seminar Series

Briefing 2: The UNCRC in Practice

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Overview of the seminar series

This series of four one-day interdisciplinary and cross-sector seminars will seek to improve -- and address gaps -- in the implementation and monitoring of the [UNCRC](#) in Scotland. Each seminar will examine the UNCRC from the perspectives of law, practice, policy and next steps for implementation. The seminar series is being held in partnership between Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights), the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh, and the Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection at the University of Stirling. The series has been funded by the [Scottish Universities Insight Institute \(SUII\)](#).

The dates

The seminars run as follows:

1. The UNCRC in Law: Friday 10th February 2017
2. **The UNCRC in Practice: Monday 20th March 2017**
3. The UNCRC in Policy: Monday 24th April 2017
4. The UNCRC Going Forwards: Thursday 1st June 2017

Context and aims

Since 2008, there have been significant and welcome legislative and policy developments in relation to children's rights. This includes the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 that places the UNCRC on statute for the first time, albeit falling short of the UN Committee's recommendation of full incorporation into law.

The 2014 Act requires Scottish Ministers to give due consideration to ways in which the UNCRC can be better implemented in Scotland. Whilst this is a welcome step, it does not ensure that the principles and provisions of the UNCRC are directly applicable and justiciable. Instead, Ministers have discretion as to whether they consider it 'appropriate' to further the UNCRC. Reporting duties on public bodies and Ministers under Part 1 of the 2014 Act provide a welcome and useful opportunity to mainstream children's rights into decision-making but fall short of requiring any action to implement the UNCRC.

Further steps can and should be taken to give legal effect to the UNCRC at both UK and devolved levels. In June 2016, [the UN Committee made 150 recommendations](#) outlining how the implementation of the UNCRC across the UK needs to be improved. Together's [2016 State of Children's Rights report](#) collated evidence from over 380 NGOs and professionals working with and for children to outline how the UN recommendations should be taken forward in Scotland. It is clear from this report that children's lived experiences of their rights remains patchy. This seminar series aims to explore how civil society, children and young people, and academia can work with government to ensure the full implementation of children's rights across Scotland.



Seminar Two – the UNCRC in Practice

The second seminar will explore methods through which children and young people's views and experiences are – and could be – used to inform legislative and policy developments and how children's rights are fulfilled in practice. Gerison Lansdown will discuss research developments and learning in children's participation over the past 25 years.

The seminar will also explore practice models and participation strategies through the Children's Parliament, Who Cares? Scotland and the Scottish Youth Parliament. A set of priorities will be developed for research and practice as a result of the workshops run by children and young people themselves.

A summary of key messages and final input will be given by Tam Baillie, the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland.

Seminar Two - speaker / workshop abstracts

Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool and international experiences

Gerison Lansdown, international expert on children and young people's participation

The right of children to express their views and have them taken seriously cannot be realised in a vacuum. In order to fulfil their obligations under Article 12 of the UNCRC, governments need to take positive action to build the environments in which children have both awareness of their rights and meaningful opportunities to exercise them.

This session will introduce the Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool which has developed 10 indicators against which governments can measure their progress in implementing Article 12 in respect of: establishing legal or protective frameworks for child participation; ensuring parents, professionals and children are aware of children's right to be heard; and the creation of safe and effective spaces for participation. Using the tool would enable the Scottish Government to undertake a baseline assessment of current implementation, identify measures needed to achieve further compliance, provide benchmarks to measure progress over time, and strengthen monitoring and accountability.

Workshop, Rights in Practice: A rights-based approach to Bullying

The Children's Parliament

The Children's Parliament focuses on the lived experiences of children in relation to their rights. They start with the intuitive idea of human dignity and build an understanding of rights. An element of this work is recognising we must give children equal protection from violence. When we talk to children about their experiences a common barrier to a healthy, happy and safe life is bullying. In their Concluding Observations on the UK's 5th report, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child called for the UK (and so all devolved Governments) to "intensify its efforts to tackle bullying and violence" (49a¹).

At the seminar children and Children's Parliament workers will talk about the 'Children's Parliament Investigates Bullying' programme, focusing on the key themes of human dignity, empathy, kindness and trust. Children will facilitate small group discussions and share their perspectives.

¹ CRC/C/GBR/CO/5: Para: 49a.



Workshop, 1,000 Voices Campaign

Who Cares? Scotland

Who Cares? Scotland is an advocacy and campaigning organisation working alongside children and young people with experience of care. Over the past 4 years, Who Cares? Scotland have developed their influencing work, so that it is driven by the voice of care experienced young people. Most recently, this has led to the First Minister of Scotland pledging to listen to 1000 care experienced voices over the next two years. This will be an exciting and large-scale participation exercise, dependent on children, young people, professionals and families associated with care, across Scotland.

Who Cares? Scotland's workshop will take a closer look at the 1000 Voices campaign and some of the participation approaches used by Who Cares? Scotland to meaningfully engage both young people and their supporters alike.

Workshop, Putting Article 12 into practice and UNCRC reporting

Scottish Youth Parliament

The Scottish Youth Parliament represents Scotland's young people. Their vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its children and young people. The Scottish Youth Parliament's goal is to make this vision a reality, in order to ensure Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up.

In their session, the Scottish Youth Parliament will discuss how they put Article 12 of the UNCRC into practice by working to ensure young people's voices are brought to decision-makers at a local, national, and international level. They will focus in particular on how they work with the Scottish Parliament, and their role in giving evidence to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child during the 5th periodic review of the UK.

Children and young people's project

Throughout the series, a team of MSYPs and members of the Glasgow Youth Council will be working with us to write child-friendly briefings to inform a fantastic creative project run in partnership with the Children's Parliament. The children from Children's Parliament will create a set of artwork panels, depicting how they interpret key messages from the series and what they think should be done to further the UNCRC in Scotland. This work will be displayed in Scottish Parliament, placing awareness and understanding of children's rights in the centre of decision-making environments.

The MSYPs and members of the Glasgow Youth Council present at the seminars will also be providing input to the short video being made by Young Scot, to give their perspectives on what they have heard throughout the day and how they see key issues impacting on children and young people.

More information about the organisers of this event

- [Together](#) (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
- [Centre for Research on Families and Relationships](#) (CRFR) at the University of Edinburgh
- [Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection](#) (CCWP) at the University of Stirling

For further details on the seminar series, visit the following pages or contact Liz Millership on 0131 337 9015 / liz@togetherscotland.org.uk

- [Eventbrite organiser page](#)
- [SUII information page](#)
- [Outputs from the first seminar on 'the UNCRC in Law'](#)



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The UNCRC in Practice: Biographies in order of appearance

Fiona Jones – Opening remarks

Fiona is the Policy and Advocacy Consultant and co-founder of Clan Childlaw, a unique advocacy and legal service for children and young people. She provides legal advice on all aspects of child law, contributes to policy development and delivers training. Fiona is a non-practising member of the Faculty of Advocates, with many years of experience working to advance the realisation of Children's Rights in Scotland. She is a member of the Family Law Committee of the Scottish Civil Justice Council. She has, until recently, been a Safeguarder in the Children's Hearings System and a Child Welfare Reporter at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. She has also been a learning assistant to a child with autism and an adviser in a Citizen's Advice Bureau. Fiona has been on the Board of Together since 2013.

Tam Baillie – Welcome

Tam Baillie is the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland, taking up this post in 2009 after working as a manager and practitioner with children and young people for over 30 years.

The Commissioner has a duty to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people in Scotland under the age of 18 (and those under 21 if they have ever been in the care of, or looked after by a local authority).

The Commissioner and his team do this by:

- Raising awareness of rights
- Involving children and young people in our work
- Considering law, policy and practice that concerns rights
- Communicating best practice about rights

Children's rights are set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which the UK Government signed up to in 1991.

Fiona Ross MSYP – Morning Chair

Fiona is a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Glasgow Kelvin, and serves concurrently as Convener of the External Affairs Committee. Presently she is also UK Young Ambassador for Scotland, and is on the Advisory Board for the Young Women's Movement (YWCA). She is particularly interested in post-conflict identity formation in young people, and has recently been part of a delegation to Bosnia-Herzegovina with the charity Remembering Srebrenica, and was a member of an experiential learning programme in the Middle East with the Olive Tree Initiative. She is completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Glasgow in Politics and English Literature, and holds a scholarship from the Carnegie Trust to research community integration in refugee receiving communities.

Mahnoor Shah MSYP – Morning Chair

Mahnoor Shah is a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Edinburgh East and is the Deputy Convener of the Health and Wellbeing Committee. Mahnoor has spoken at a number of events, representing the Scottish Youth Parliament and young people. She is concerned at the impact social issues have on young people and actively engages with them to ensure their views are heard at a national level with various stakeholders.



Gerison Lansdown – Morning speaker

Gerison Lansdown was the founder director, 1992-2000, of the Children's Rights Alliance for England, and, over the past 16 years, has worked as an international children's rights consultant and advocate, publishing and lecturing widely on the subject of children's rights. She has produced a number of publications on children's participation rights and evolving capacities, as well as working with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on several general comments, including on Article 12, Article 31 and on the rights of children during adolescence. She is a senior associate of the International Institute for Child Rights and Development in Victoria, and has an Honorary Doctorate from The Open University. She was for nine years Vice Chair of UNICEF-UK, and is currently on the editorial advisory board of the Canadian Journal of Children's Rights, a trustee for APPROACH, the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, and Chair of Child to Child. Recent publications include:

- **A toolkit for monitoring and evaluating children's participation**, Save the Children/Plan/WorldVision/UNICEF/The Concerned for Working Children, 2014.
- **Children with disabilities**, in *Human Rights and Disability Advocacy*, ed M Sabatello and M Schulz, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.
- **25 years of the UNCRC: Lessons learned in children's participation**, Canadian Journal of Children's Rights, Vol 1 No1, 2014.
- **Article 31, Commentary on the CRC**, Oxford University Press (forthcoming).
- **The UNCRC: Relevance and application to paediatric ethics**, Lansdown G, Lundy L, Goldhagen J, 01/06/2016 in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, 58, 3, p252-256.
- **Child participation assessment tool**, Council of Europe, 2016.

Children's Parliament

Children's Parliament builds relationships that allow children the opportunity to voice their ideas, thoughts and feelings so that their concerns and opinions can be listened to and included in our social and political landscape.

They do this in two ways. Firstly, by working directly with children through projects and consultations and secondly by educating and equipping adults with knowledge and skills in order that they can replicate Children's Parliament's approach in their own locations.

At the root of all Children's Parliaments' work is a commitment to increasing children and adults' knowledge and understanding of children's human rights with the aim of ensuring that the confident voices of children – and the good listening skills of adults – help to keep children healthy, happy and safe.

Who Cares? Scotland

Who Cares? Scotland is a national voluntary organisation, working alongside care experienced children and young people across Scotland. Who Cares? want to see a Scotland where care experienced people are equal members of society. They want those with experience of care to know that they are not alone. Who Cares? Scotland help them speak out with our independent advocacy; help them come together through group work; secure and strengthen their rights with policy and training; and ensure that their qualities and successes are recognised across society through Who Cares? Scotland campaigns.

Alicia Santana, Development Assistant, Who Cares? Scotland

Alicia is from Edinburgh, she is care experienced and passionate about music, equality, and her dog. Alicia became involved with Who Cares? Scotland as a volunteer in 2014, and now works as a Development Assistant. Alicia's



work consists of influencing the wider society at both local and corporate level on how to make the care system better, as well as group work with young people helping them tackle local issues and explore their care identity.

[Charlie Mcfarlane, Policy Assistant, Who Cares? Scotland](#)

Charlie joined WC?S in 2016 after completing the reaching higher employment programme for care experienced young people. Charlie works as a Policy Assistant and supports all aspects of the teams work which aims to deliver real change for Scotland's care experienced young people to ensure they live a life they control, deserve and are proud of. Outside of work Charlie's interests include gaming, football and socialising.

[Lynzy Hanvidge, Policy Ambassador, Who Cares? Scotland](#)

Lynzy initially became involved with Who Cares? Scotland when she received independent advocacy while living in a residential school. Lynzy has been working in the Who Cares? Scotland policy team since December 2015 and was recently promoted to the position of Policy Ambassador where she is responsible for engaging young people in the work of the policy team.

[Cathy McCulloch – Afternoon Chair](#)

Cathy McCulloch is Co-Director of the Children's Parliament in Scotland. Cathy co-founded Children's Parliament in 1996 with Co-Director Dr Colin Morrison and since that time has worked to create opportunities where children can reflect and share with decision-makers issues that are important to them. In addition to direct work with children, Cathy provides training and support around the meaning and impact of a rights based approach to parents/carers and professionals who work with children. She also works with national bodies to increase awareness and understanding of a human rights approach and through effective local partnerships, demonstrates the positive impact implementation of a rights and relationship based approach has on outcomes for children.

[Scottish Youth Parliament](#)

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) represents Scotland's young people. Its vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its children and young people. SYP's goal is to make this vision a reality, in order to ensure Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up.

SYP is a fundamentally rights-based organisation, and its mission, vision, and values are grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In particular, its purpose embodies Article 12: that young people have the right to express their views freely and have their opinions listened to in all matters affecting them.