

This is an easy to read version of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, also called the UNCRC.

A right is a promise made by governments to people. Rights should make sure that everybody is treated equally and fairly. Rights are about having the opportunity to be involved in things that affect us. It is important that your rights are respected

but it is also important that you respect other people's rights

WHAT IS A RIGHT?

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS? The United Nations (UN) is a group made up of almost every country in the world They work together on issues which affect everyone. To help with this they created a list of rights everyone should have. One of these sets of rights is for children and young people. This is called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (sometimes called the UNCRC).

WHAT IS THE UNCRC? The UNCRC is a list of 42 promises (called Articles) made by governments of almost every country in the UN (except USA and Somalia) to children and young people. It includes the right to education, fair treatment and the right to give your opinion. The UK Government signed and ratified the UNCRC in 1991 and should work to make all of the rights part of the law. This includes laws in Northern Ireland.

WHAT IS NICCY?

NICCY stands for the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. It is the Commissioner's job to protect children's rights by making sure that government and other organisations provide what children and young people need to have a good life in Northern Ireland. When we talk about children we mean everyone up to the age of 18 (or 21 if they have been cared for by someone other than their parents, or have a disability).

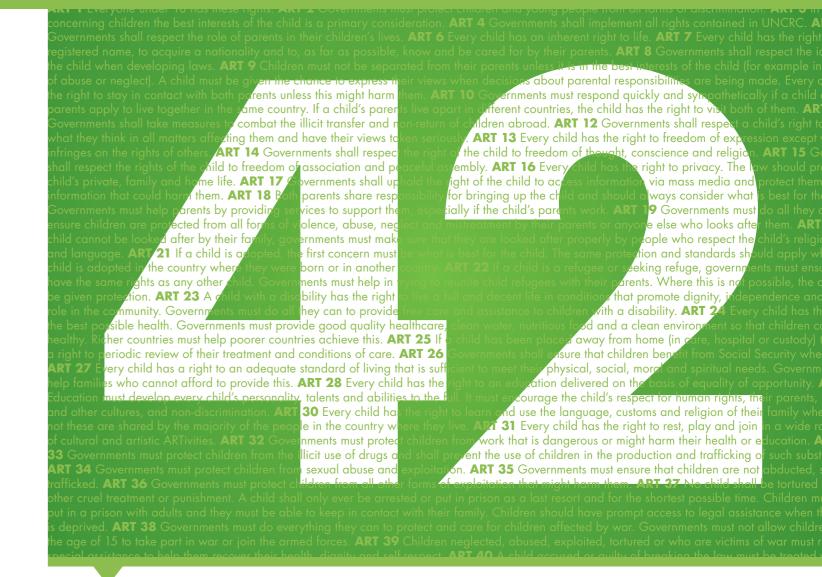
You can also contact us by Minicom on **028 9031 6393**, or by using the Relay Services to contact NICCY's telephone number **(028 9031 1616)**.

NICCY would like to acknowledge Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People for assistance with the wording of the Articles contained in this document.

Please contact the Communications team at NICCY if you require alternative formats of this material.

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS



PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

