

THE GLOBAL DISCUSSIONS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



Our name is GlobalChild.

We are a group of experts from Canada and across the world who worked together to promote children's rights.

Together with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, we aimed to include children in the conversation about their rights.

We are developing a set of indicators* that will help governments and others check that they are keeping their promises under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*.

We wanted to be sure that children across the world got the chance to be involved in this work.

***Indicators - are ways to show that something is happening. In this case they show that governments are keeping their promises to children.**

***The CRC is a set of promises that governments have made to make sure that all children can have a good life.**

WHAT WE DID



**We asked the Centre for Children's Rights
at Queen's University Belfast
to help us involve children**

**They worked with a group of 25 child advisors from a school
in Northern Ireland**

**They helped us develop child-friendly versions of each article of the
CRC
and helped us think about good ways to talk with other children
about what would make good indicators.**

**We partnered with community groups, schools and Universities
to discuss children's rights in workshops.**

In total, 52 centres around the world joined this project!

**We talked to 1836 children in 35 countries,
getting their ideas about what they think shows
that governments are meeting their CRC promises.**

WHAT CHILDREN TOLD US



**Children across the world gave us lots of ideas
about what should go in the indicators.
That is, what shows that governments
are keeping their promises**

**For example, on the right to play (Article 31 CRC)
children said,**

***"Children can (should be able to) join sports free of charge. Sport
clubs have support so children can train and exercise" (Europe)***

***"Parents are afraid to leave their
children play since there is no safety so at the end they forbid
their children from playing" (Asia)***

***"Government should introduce a body which would
monitor if children have enough free time" (Europe)***

***"Parents should encourage children to relax, have fun,
and play" (USA)***

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

GlobalChild read all of the ideas that were suggested by children.



Often the children had the same ideas as the team.

Sometimes, they had new or extra suggestions.

GlobalChild changed some indicators to make sure they included the children's suggestions.

Based on the children's views, 26 changes were made. Here are some examples:

UNCRC Article

What children said

Revised/New indicator



"Adults should first learn how to listen to children."

Percentage of children who feel listened to and respected by their parents or carers.

"When parents make decisions or something related to their children, they should discuss with their children and make decisions based on best interests of their children."

Percentage of caregivers expressing positive attitudes towards children's right to be heard.

"Everyone working with children should be well educated and trained how to listen to children. Professionals should be trained to understand children also through their drawings."

Percentage of children who feel they have a trusted adult they can talk to.

UNCRC Article

What children said

Revised/New indicator



Article 13

**FIND and
SHARE
information**

"Government should create guidelines in schools to teach the students about the boundaries of their freedom of speech to prevent racist/sexist/harmful comments."

Proportion of schools that educate children about boundaries of freedom of speech to prevent harmful comments (e.g. racist, sexist, and/or homophobic comments).



Article 15

**MEET with
friends and
JOIN groups**

"What are the laws put forth by the government for those stopping us to peacefully associate ourselves in public and community places?"

Proportion of schools that educate children about boundaries of freedom of speech to prevent harmful comments (e.g. racist, sexist, and/or homophobic comments).

"Schools should offer opportunities to develop activities as a group and should provide with information that students are able to organize and form groups based on topics of mutual interest "example basketball club."

Percentage of children who report having adequate opportunity to spend time with friends.



Article 31

**RELAX and
PLAY**

"We have to make sure that school establishment organise artistic and cultural competition."

National school curriculum (if in place) incorporates provision for culture and the arts, reflecting all cultural and minority ethnic groups living in the State party.

"The playing areas outside the camp are very far where parents should accompany their children so at the end the parents will stop doing that because of having more priority duties for living."

Proportion of parents who value self directed play in the home.

UNCRC Article

What children said

Revised/New indicator



Article 38

**NOT JOIN
an ARMY
until age 18**

"Awareness workshops for children against recruitment to the armed conflicts and to be a child soldier."

Percentage of children aware of their right to protection from participation in hostilities.

Useful activities to engage children with rather than having free time to engage in those military parties.

"Children have to be educated on the dangers of arm conflict. A law has to be there that would protect children from participating in arm conflict."

Programmes for children are in place, where appropriate to:

- (1) Raise awareness of the risks of participation in hostilities.
- (2) Raise awareness of rights to protection from participation in hostilities.
- (3) Provide alternative opportunities to reduce likelihood of participation.

GlobalChild will use this information, about what is important to children, to help governments and others check that they are keeping their promises under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)



The child advisors from Northern Ireland were:

Aimee, Aliyya, Amanda, Aoife, Beth, Caitlin K, Caitlin W, Caoilfhionn, Cellach, Clíodhna, Dearbhail, Erin, Faith, Frances, Grainne, Kayla, Kaylagh, Leah, Liwia, Lynisha, Meabh, Molly, Niamh, Saoirse and Sophie.



GlobalChild

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