



# THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL TASKFORCE 2021

## WELCOME!

Everyone has **human rights**. These are based on things like dignity, fairness and respect. We are born with these rights and they can't be taken away.

Countries can promise to respect people's human rights by signing **special agreements**. They can make sure they keep this promise by changing their laws and making sure everyone's human rights are protected.



## WHAT IS THIS LEAFLET ABOUT?

The Scottish Government wants to write a **new human rights law for Scotland**. A law is a rule. It tells people what they can and can't do. Sometimes a law says that you have to do something.

The new law would put all your human rights directly into Scotland's law. This is sometimes called '**incorporation**'. The new law would include the rights of disabled children and young people, the right to a healthy environment, the right to food, the right to housing, the right to health and all the other rights you have.

The Scottish Government has asked a group of experts to help with the new law. This group is called the **National Taskforce** and they want to know what you think!

This leaflet will help you get ready to tell the National Taskforce what you think about the idea for a new human rights law. It focuses on the **rights of disabled children and young people**.

# THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Every child and young person has human rights. Some children and young people are more vulnerable and need extra help. This includes disabled children and young people. Countries have signed special agreements to protect vulnerable people. The agreements say what countries must do to make sure they have the same rights as everybody else.

The rights of disabled people, including those with learning disabilities, are protected in an agreement called the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (or 'CRPD' for short).

The CRPD says that disabled children have the same rights as other children. For example, they have:

- The right to **be treated fairly** and **respected**.
- The right to **make their own choices**.
- The right to **say what they think** and for adults to listen
- The right to **get extra help** if they need it.
- The right to **be included**. For example, it should be easy for them to use hospitals, schools, transport, theatres, museums and sports centres.
- The right to **information** that is easy to understand. This includes sign language, Braille and EasyRead.
- The right to **education** with extra help if they need it.

## WHAT IF ADULTS DON'T RESPECT MY RIGHTS?

There are some laws to help disabled children and young people but the CRPD isn't fully part of the law. This can make it difficult for disabled children and young people to challenge things if their rights aren't respected.

The new human rights law could help to change this by making the CRPD part of the law in Scotland.



## WHAT WOULD MAKING IT PART OF THE LAW MEAN?

By making the CRPD part of the law, Scotland would say to everyone that the rights of disabled children and young people are very important.

If the CRPD is made part of the law, it would mean the **Scottish Government has to follow it**. For example, it would have to:

- Make sure disabled children and young people are **treated fairly** and not discriminated against. This might mean changing the law and other rules.
- Make sure that disabled children and young people can **get information about things that will help them** and in a way they understand.
- **Ask disabled children and young people what they think** before new laws and decisions are made. They should also ask people and organisations who help them.



If the Scottish Government doesn't respect these rights, then you would be able to complain and **have something done about it**. This might mean asking a judge to decide if they have broken the law. The judge could ask them to change if they are not following the CRPD.

You would also be able to complain if public bodies haven't respected your rights. Public bodies are organisations like schools, health services, councils and the police. They make decisions that affect you.



You can send drawings, paintings, poems or anything you'd like to the **National Taskforce** to say what you think. You can ask someone to help you if you need it. You can do this until the **31st January 2021**.

Their email address is **[allourrightsinelaw@gmail.com](mailto:allourrightsinelaw@gmail.com)**

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The National Taskforce wants to hear what you think about a new human rights law. **What you think is really important** - it will help adults understand if your human rights are being respected and what adults could be doing better.

- Do you feel like your rights are always respected at the moment?
- How would a new human rights law help you, your family and your community?
- What needs to be in the new law?
- Is there anything else that needs to happen to protect your rights?
- What extra help do you think disabled children and young people might need if their rights are not respected?