

# Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

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## **Consultation on a UK Bill of Rights**

### **Question 1**

#### **Do you think we need a Bill of Rights in the UK?**

Children in Scotland believes that fundamental human rights should be enshrined in law. We believe it is critical that the rights of children are seen as an integral part of human rights in general. This means that children's rights should not be dependent on parental status (for example, children of irregular migrants) and that mechanisms must be in place to reconcile rights of children and of adults where these may be in conflict.

### **If you do,**

#### **Question 2**

#### **What should be in the Bill of Rights?**

We believe the Bill of Rights should embody the principles and articles of the of the Universal Declaration and European Convention on human rights, the UNCRC and other relevant conventions such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The principles of the Bill of Rights should be underpinned by entitlements to services and support and provision for recourse if rights are not upheld.

### **Question 3**

#### **If we had a Bill of Rights in the UK, should it be the same or different in the different parts of the UK such as in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales?**

It is already legally incumbent on the Scottish Parliament that any legislation it enacts must be consistent with the terms of the ECHR. This should apply across the UK.

### **Question 4**

#### **Is there anything else you want to tell us about our work?**

Children in Scotland is the national umbrella agency for organisations and professionals working with and for children, young people and their families. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that policies and services and other provisions are of the highest possible quality and are able to meet the needs of a diverse society. Children in Scotland represents more than 400 members, including 90% of Scottish local authorities, all major voluntary, statutory and private children's agencies, professional organisations, as well as many other smaller community groups and children's services. It is linked with similar agencies in other parts of the UK and Europe.

The work of Children in Scotland encompasses extensive information, policy, research and practice development programmes. The agency works closely with MSPs, the Scottish Government, local authorities and practitioners. It also services groups such as the Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Children and Young People (with YouthLink Scotland). In addition, Children in Scotland hosts Enquire - the national advice service for additional support for learning, and Resolve: ASL, Scotland's largest independent education mediation service.