

Why is being listened to important?

- Children often know better than adults what will improve things in their lives and where they live.
- Involving children shows their views are important and helps them learn how to make decisions.
- This is really important when Government is more involved in children's lives, like when social services and courts decide who looks after a child or what happens if they are in trouble.

What the **UNCRC** says:

- Children have a right to be listened to when decisions affecting them are made. This is called article 12 and is one of the most important promises in the UNCRC.

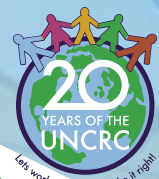
The United Nations checks if Government is keeping their promises. In 2008 they said Government needed to make sure:

- Children's views were respected at home, in schools and courts
- There is something like a Youth Assembly so children have more of a say in Government.

What **NICCY** says:

Government is starting a Youth Assembly and funds an organisation called the Participation Network help them listen to children. NICCY wants them to make sure they also do the three things we think are important (see back page).

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Children Having A Say