

Make it right...act now!

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 confers on the Commissioner a number of roles in relation to children's right to have a say in decisions affecting them:

1. Providing children and adults with information on children's rights;
2. Monitoring delivery and advising Government on children's rights;
3. Seeking advice from children in exercising her duties;
4. Ensuring independent advocacy services are available;
5. Assisting children and young people in bringing a complaint; and
6. Having an ombudsman role in investigating children's complaints.

References

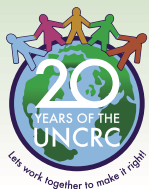
- 1 The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2009), General Comment No 12: The Right of the Child to be Heard, (Geneva: UN). Hereafter GC12.
- 2 GC12.
- 3 Lansdown, G. (2005) 'Innocenti Insight: The evolving capacities of the child', (Florence: UNICEF).
- 4 The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 12.
- 5 The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2005), General Comment No 7: Implementing child rights in early childhood, (Geneva: UN).
- 6 Sexual Offences Order (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Armed Forces (Enlistment) Regulations 2009. Joining the Army requires parental consent.
- 7 Two standards are used to determine competence, "Gillick Competence" and "Fraser Guidelines", both developed in response to a 1983 judgement in the High Court.
- 8 Lundy, L. (2007) 33(6) 'Voice is not enough': Conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', British Educational Research Journal, 927-942.
- 9 Lundy, L. (2007) 33(6) 'Voice is not enough': Conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', British Education Research Journal, 927-942.
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- 12 McAlister, S., Scraton, P. and Haydon, D. (2009) Childhood in Transition: Experiencing Marginalisation and Conflict in Northern Ireland, (Belfast: QUB, Save the Children, The Prince's Trust).

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Northern Ireland Commissioner
for Children and Young People



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