



## What the UNCRC says:

### Article 15

All children and young people have the right to meet together in groups as they wish, as long as this does not harm other people or stop them enjoying their rights.

### Article 31

Government should recognise the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities and encourage the provision of appropriate leisure activities for all children and young people.

### Article 40

All children accused, or convicted of committing a crime must be treated in a way that helps them to respect the human rights of others and there should be many ways to help children and young people who break the law, including care, guidance and counselling.

## What children and young people say about their communities:

"There is no place to go and just hang around with your friends."<sup>20</sup>

"It would make me feel safer in a big group of friends, but just because I'm with a lot of other teenagers, people need to be aware that I am not looking to cause trouble."

"When we were kickin' the ball at the bottom of the street, he (police officer) pulls up and is like, 'Here, wouldn't ye take that there ball away or you're gonna lose it' ... Sure, we don't even have no football pitch to play on, so where do they expect us to play, like?"

"If we're standin' on the streets with hoodies an' all, they think we're going to batter old women."

"The best night's when you're out with your friends, and (then) ye get slapped on the back of the head. Say people's drinking around ye, you'd be afraid somebody's gonna turn on ye and you'd get a wile beating."

"Cos of your age, you could be the most innocent person in the world, but you get the blame."<sup>21</sup>

## What the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child said to the UK Government in 2008:

The Committee recommended that the Government strengthen its efforts to guarantee the right of children to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age.

The Committee expressed concern at the restriction imposed on the freedom of movement and peaceful

assembly of children, by ASBOs and the introduction of the concept of "dispersed zones" in England and Wales. The Committee recommended that the Government conduct an independent review on ASBOs with a view to abolishing their application to children and young people.