

STATEMENT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 3

CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION

WHAT DOES THE UNCRC SAY?

ARTICLE 2:
NO DISCRIMINATION.
ALL CHILDREN HAVE
THESE RIGHTS. NO
CHILD SHOULD BE
TREATED UNFAIRLY

ARTICLE 19:
GOVERNMENTS MUST
PROTECT CHILDREN
FROM VIOLENCE, ABUSE
AND BEING NEGLECTED
BY ANYONE WHO LOOKS
AFTER THEM.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN NI?

- At the moment Children are **not protected from physical assault in the same way adults are**.
- NICCY has been working with government and lots of other organisations to change the law around physical punishment as a form to discipline to make sure that children have **equal protection from all forms of assault**, including physical punishment in the home.
- The Mental Capacity Act (2016) fuses together mental health laws and mental capacity – which is ways to work out if someone is capable of making their own decisions. NICCY wants to **make sure that children under 16 can get the same protection** and that any new laws respects all of their rights.
- Government wants to introduce new laws to stop people being discriminated against because of their age when they are accessing goods (eg buying things), facilities (eg going to places such as leisure centres or libraries) and services (eg health care or banking). **Current plans don't include under 16s** which NICCY doesn't think respects the rights of that age group.



WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT DO NOW?



Develop law that covers all age groups to include the protection of children and young people from discrimination when accessing goods, facilities and services.



Make sure that mental health law in NI provides all children aged under 18 with access to legal protections and safeguards that comply with the European Court of Human Rights and the UNCRC.



Change laws to make sure children have equal protection from all forms of assault, including physical punishment in the home. Government should also support families, including dedicated and effective positive parenting support.