

# STATEMENT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 3



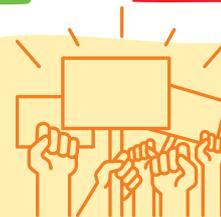
## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### WHAT DOES THE UNCRC SAY?

ARTICLE 24: CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE THE BEST HEALTHCARE, CLEAN WATER TO DRINK, HEALTHY FOOD AND A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO LIVE IN

THE UN COMMITTEE IS ALSO WORKING ON A GENERAL COMMENT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, FOCUSING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

### WHATS GOING ON IN NI?



- Climate change is a big concern for many children and young people in Northern Ireland. In 2021, **Belfast Climate Commission** surveyed young people and found out that half of them were either very or extremely worried about climate change.
- NICCY has been working with other Children's Commissioners from a cross Europe on Climate Justice. In their statement they found that governments need to put '**best interests**' first when tackling this issue so that other rights aren't impacted by climate change.
- The Youth Advisors to the Commissioners want to make sure they can access **clear, reliable information** which doesn't add to climate anxiety and that they have **meaningful ways to participate** in plans to tackle environmental protection and climate justice. In Northern Ireland we haven't seen good examples of this.
- Governments need to protect children's role as **rights defenders** including their right to protest, access information and they should set up easy ways for young people to make **legal complaints** on environmental issues.





## WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT DO NOW?



Children's rights should be a main **consideration** when making plans to tackle environmental matters and climate change.



Children and young people should be able to **talk directly to the government** about their plans to protect the environment and tackle climate change. Government should also recognise children's right to information and to protest and set up **easy ways for children to make legal complaints**.



When taking action to tackle climate change, government should make sure that it is done in a way that is **fair to everyone**.