

STATEMENT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS 3

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUBJECT TO IMMIGRATION CONTROL

WHAT DOES THE UNCRC SAY?

ARTICLE 2:

CHILDREN WHO MOVE FROM THEIR HOME COUNTRY TO ANOTHER COUNTRY AS REFUGEES (BECAUSE IT WAS NOT SAFE FOR THEM TO STAY THERE) SHOULD GET HELP AND PROTECTION AND HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS CHILDREN BORN IN THAT COUNTRY.

WHATS GOING ON IN NI?

- NICCY has published a paper on the problems faced by asylum seeking children and families who aren't given any financial help by government. This paper is called '**A Hostile Environment**' and makes the following recommendations:
 - Find out how many children are living in families who **don't qualify for government funding**.
 - Make sure the Home Office and Health and Social Care agencies **communicate effectively** to meet the needs of these children.
 - Make sure all children in this situation have **access to all the rights in the UNCRC**, including best possible health care, education and a decent standard of living.
- Children who **arrive in Northern Ireland alone** without an adult supporting them should be given proper care and support, including a **dedicated guardian** who can make sure they are safe and cared for properly. This system should be the same across all areas in Northern Ireland.
- Government should make sure that **children who are in care and affected by Brexit** (or the EU Settled Status Scheme) continue to be looked after properly and that government makes sure it is legal for them to stay in the country.
- Some children are housed in hotels which isn't suitable for family life. NICCY wants to make sure they are placed in **suitable accommodation** where all their rights can be met and not camps or detention centres.



WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT DO NOW?



Implement NICCY's recommendations in 'A Hostile Environment', so we know how many children are affected, and **work together to assess and address the needs of each child.**



Make sure all 'separated children' who come to NI are **supported effectively** in the same way



Make sure that **emergency accommodation** used for asylum seekers is suitable for families and that all children have access to services that promote their **rights to education, healthcare, play etc.**