

LEGACY OF THE CONFLICT

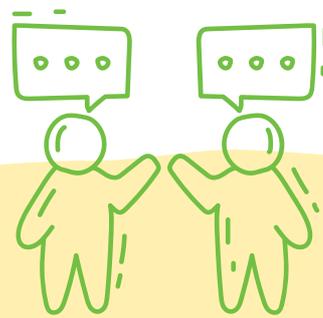
WHAT DOES THE UNCRC SAY?

ARTICLE 13:
CHILDREN HAVE
THE RIGHT TO
SHARE FREELY
WITH OTHERS
UNLESS IT HARMS
OTHER PEOPLE.

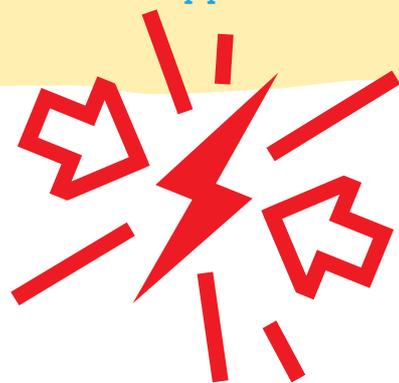
ARTICLE 19:
CHILDREN SHOULD
BE PROTECTED
FROM VIOLENCE
AND SUPPORTED IF
THEY HAVE BEEN
HARMED



WHATS GOING ON IN NI?



- The **legacy of the conflict has a negative impact** on children and young people in Northern Ireland through social division, segregated housing and education, sectarianism, and ongoing paramilitary violence.
- NICCY strongly believes that legacy issues impacting children and young people in Northern Ireland cannot be addressed through a single action plan. It must be the **responsibility of every children's service to address conflict legacy issues**, including the impact of paramilitary-style criminal gangs, in partnership with communities, families and children themselves. This can only be achieved by taking a **children's rights approach**.
- The presence of **paramilitary-style groups** in certain communities is an ongoing legacy of the conflict. NICCY is deeply concerned about the harm these organised groups inflict on children and young people, through intimidation, abuse, exploitation and coercive control.
- We are glad to see that there have been significant changes in how young people are **supported to avoid paramilitary influence**, through work led by the Education Authority in partnership with the voluntary and community sector and the Police.
- It is important that the school curriculum includes **information about the conflict** to support all children and young people to have a shared understanding of the past and appreciation of diverse cultures in Northern Ireland. Teachers should be supported to explore controversial issues.



WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT DO NOW?



Protect children from all types of violence in their communities, including by paramilitaries. They should also make sure that they are protected from being recruited by these groups.



If any child is at risk of abuse or exploitation from a criminal or paramilitary organisation then they should be supported as any other child at risk.



Tackle the ongoing impact of conflict and make sure children and young people get suitable services in their communities.



Make sure the school curriculum promotes understanding and integration between communities from an early age and integrate through education and working together.



Support children and young people to play a central role in building a peaceful future and as Rights Defenders. Make sure children and young people are supported to explore and celebrate their culture, and to recognise the right of others to celebrate theirs.