

Welcome to NICCY's event '***A Hostile Environment: Children and Families affected by immigration status and No Recourse to Public Funds***'.

The meeting will start shortly. For registration purposes, please ensure your Zoom profile name on your device used is correct.

Note that we will be recording the event and microphones will be switched off for those attending.

Please use the chat function for any comments or questions you would like to be included as part of the Q&A.

# A Hostile Environment:

children and families affected by immigration status and “No Recourse to Public Funds”



Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – virtual launch

# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## What is the UNCRC?

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is a list of the rights for every child up to 18. Government has promised to make these rights a reality for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 1:** All children have these rights, no matter who they are or what their culture, language, religion or gender is. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

You have the right to a name, nationality and identity.



If you have a disability you should be given the help you need.



You should always be treated fairly and respected.



You have the right to speak your own language and to practice your religion and culture freely.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 2:** All adults should do what is best for you.

You should be safe and cared for.



You should be protected from any harm and if you have been hurt you should get the help you need.



If you break the law you should be supported not to do it again.



You have the right to keep some things private.



**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 3:** You have the right to live and develop fully. You should have food, clothing and a safe place to live.

You should be respected and safe.



You have the right to the best health care possible.



You have the right to rest and play.



Your family should get the money they need to support you.



**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 4:** You have the right to give your opinion, for adults to listen to it and take it seriously.

You have the right to get information safely and to express yourself.



You have the right to meet with others to voice your opinion.

You have the right to free education that develops your skills and abilities.



## So who is NICCY?

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People is here to promote and protect these rights for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

If you wish to contact us about this find us at:

# A Hostile Environment - NRPF

***“Childhood, after all, is the first precious coin that poverty steals from a child” - Anthony Horowitz***

***“States parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical, spiritual, moral and social development” - Article 27***



*“The aim is to create, here in Britain, a really hostile environment for illegal immigrants.” - 2012*

# A Hostile Environment - NRPF

## Recommendations

- 1. Undertake work to identify how many children in NI are living in a family with no recourse to public funds and to publish this data. This should include both figures held by the Home Office in regard to immigration control and legal status and by the Department of Health in relation to children who may be eligible for or are receiving support under Article 18 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.**
- 2. Develop clear pathways across and between Home Office and health and social care agencies to ensure that children and families who may be subject to no recourse to public funds are referred and that the needs and best interests of children are assessed as a matter of urgency. This pathway information should be published.**
- 3. Address the needs of each child, particularly ensuring that they have access to the highest standard of health care, an effective education, an adequate standard of living and all other protections afforded by the UNCRC.**

# A Hostile Environment - NRPF

**Thank you for attending**

**You can find out more about our work at:**

**[www.niccy.org/NRPF](http://www.niccy.org/NRPF)**

**And follow us on:**

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