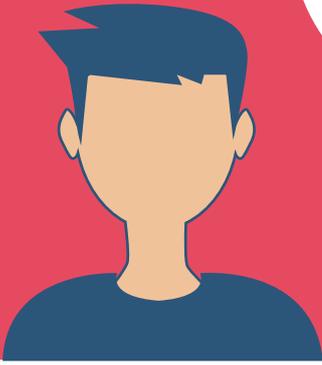


How it works

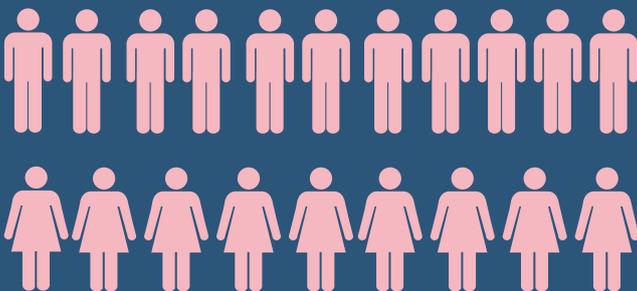


The UK's promise

- In 1991 the UK Government made a promise to the United Nations to respect children's rights. It did this by agreeing to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (or 'CRC' for short). The CRC has over **40** rights for children and young people (under 18). Check out our About the CRC Factsheet.

Who is in charge of making sure this happens?

A special Committee at the United Nations checks whether Governments are respecting the rights in the CRC. The CRC Committee is a group of **18** adults from different countries who are experts on children's rights.



The CRC is a group of 18 adults from different countries

How are rights in the CRC protected?



The CRC says that governments should do everything they can to make sure children's rights are respected and protected.

This means the Government should be thinking about your rights when it is making decisions like making new laws and policies. Every five years they have to tell the UN about how they have done this.

When the Committee looked at the UK's report in 2008 it recommended:

- ✓ taking action to address discrimination against children in all areas of society
- ✓ stopping children being unnecessarily excluded from school
- ✓ stop putting children seeking asylum in detention centres

What does the Committee do?

Governments have to send a report to the Committee every 5 years to explain how they are respecting and protecting the rights in the CRC.

Others can also send reports, including 'NGOs' (non-governmental organisations) like charities, and the Children's Commissioners, and the Equality and Human Rights Commission. These groups explain how well they think the government is doing at protecting children's rights, based on evidence. These are called "Shadow Reports".



You can get involved in this! Check out our **Get Involved** Factsheet.

The Committee looks at all reports and invites the government to a public meeting to ask them questions. It then writes a report about how well the government is doing on respecting CRC rights.

It highlights good things and makes recommendations for the government to follow in areas where it needs to do better. These reports are available to anyone, you can find them on the Committee's website:

www.ohcr.org

Can I complain to the committee if I have a problem?

There is a new part to the CRC (called an 'Optional Protocol') which lets children and young people complain to the Committee about their individual situation and say why they think their rights have not been respected. The UK haven't promised to do this (yet!), so you can't complain to the Committee directly about how your individual rights are being respected. But, you can share information with the Committee about how you think the government is doing on children's rights in general.

For more info check our **Get Involved** Factsheet.



How can I get involved?

You can provide the Committee with information on issues that are important to children and young people to help them decide how well the government is doing to protect children's rights. This isn't about whether your *individual* rights are being respected. It's about doing research and providing information and evidence on whether children's rights *in general* are respected in the UK. Have a look at our **Get Involved** Factsheet.

