

Educational, Scientific and 

### UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS Dignity and justice for all of us



## "Children are not mini-people. They have rights — not mini-rights"

Maud de Boer-Bouquiccio, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe





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  The right to be free from torture, cruel treatment and abuse.
- Human rights are also there to ensure we develop to our fullest potential.

The right to education. To work. To participate in your community.

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Nobody can take your rights away.



Human rights matter to us all.

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IN THE UK:

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One child in FOUR is physically abused

One child in SEVEN does not have a proper home



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It is vital that all young people know their rights!



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Human rights were **officially recognised** as values by the world when the United Nations was set up.

# What is the **UNITED NATIONS?**

- The United Nations is an international organisation that was established in 1945, the year the Second World War ended.
- Its founders hoped it would be able to prevent
  catastrophes like the Holocaust from happening in the future.
- So promoting human rights became an aim of the UN, along with maintaining international peace and reducing poverty.



#### No! Children's rights are not different from those held by

**adults.** But children can be more vulnerable and require special protection. Adults therefore have special responsibilities towards children.

The UN decided that children should have a human rights treaty created just for them.

The result was the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

What's so good ABOUT THE CRC?

🔶 universal

unconditional

innovative

holistic

How does the **CRC PROTECT CHILDREN** in the UK?

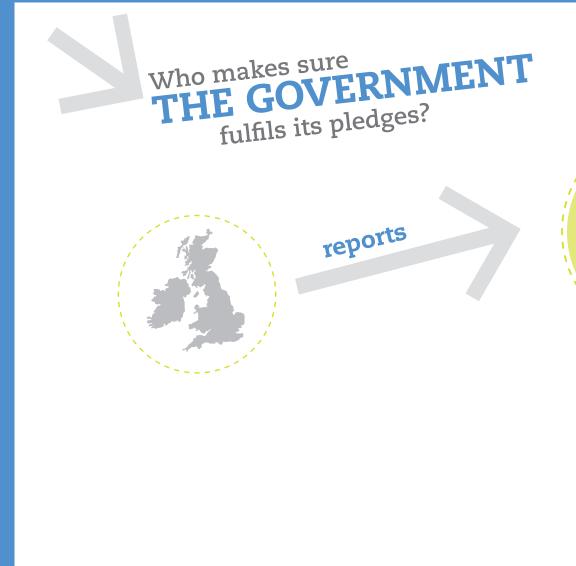
The UK decided to sign up to the CRC in 1991. By doing so, it pledged to take all necessary steps to make children's rights a reality.

#### Steps taken so far include:

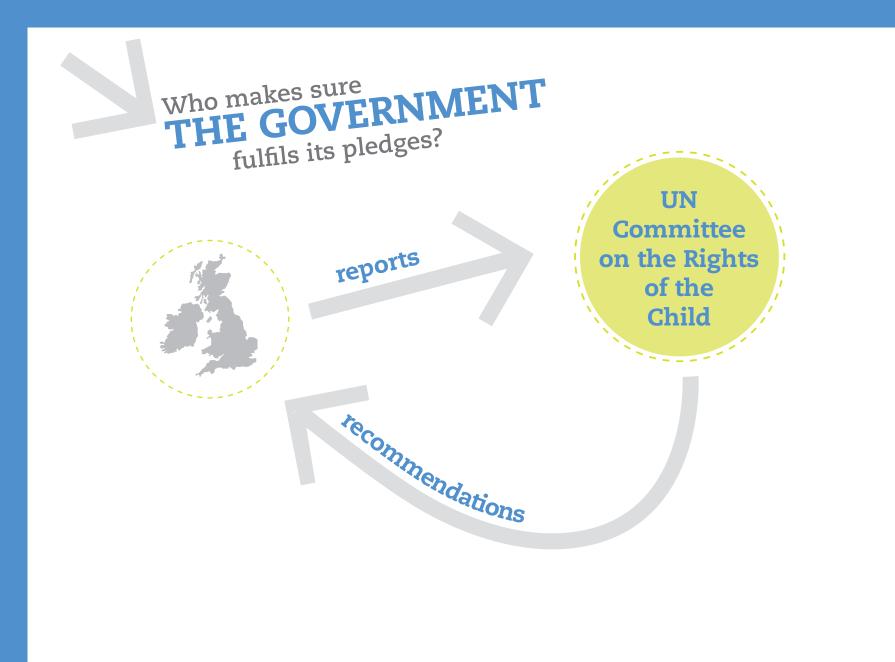
- $\rightarrow$  Human Rights Act 1998
- ightarrow Every Child Matters
- ightarrow Youth Capital Funds
- 🔶 Children Act 2004
- Children's Commissioners

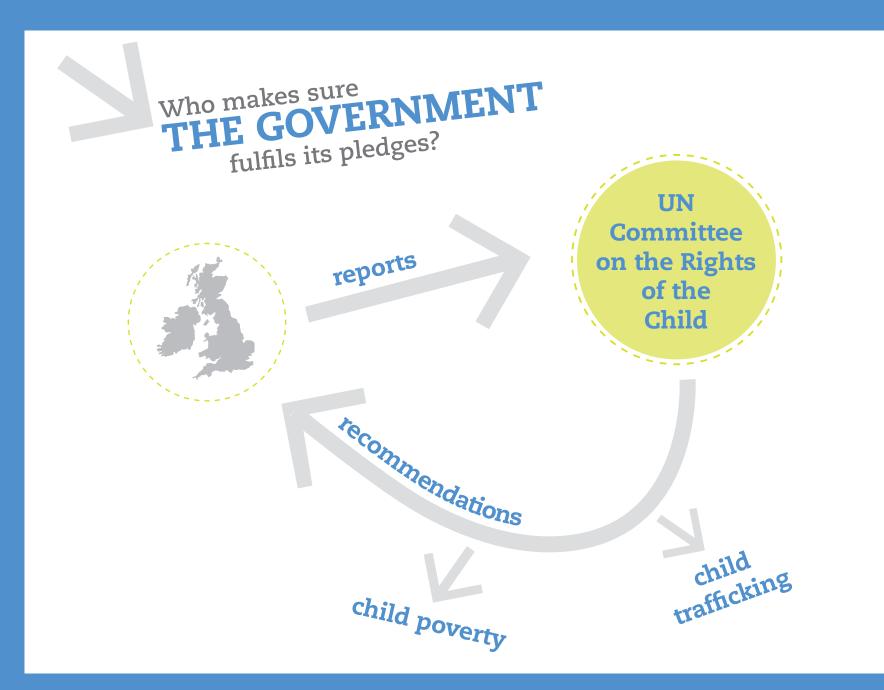
Who makes sure **THE GOVERNMENT** fulfils its pledges?





UN Committee on the Rights of the Child





# PARTICIPATION RULES!

All of us, children included, share the responsibility for protecting children's rights.

## Children can make a huge difference

and many already do – here is one example:

Voice is an organisation led by young people from across the UK. It aims to make the views of 16-25 year olds heard. The group encourages young people to take a stand against carrying weapons and promotes an honest debate on drugs. It looks at what opportunities exist for the homeless young and campaigns for balance in reporting on teenagers. Voice also offers practical help to young people who want to develop skills like public speaking. Read more on **www.ukyouth.org**  www.una.org.uk www.unesco.org.uk