



A children's human rights approach

Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
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Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)

An NGO alliance with over 600 members working to improve the awareness, understanding, and implementation of children's human rights in Scotland.

With our membership, we work to ensure that all babies, children and young people growing up in Scotland have their human rights respected, protected and fulfilled.



Children's Rights in Scotland

Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022

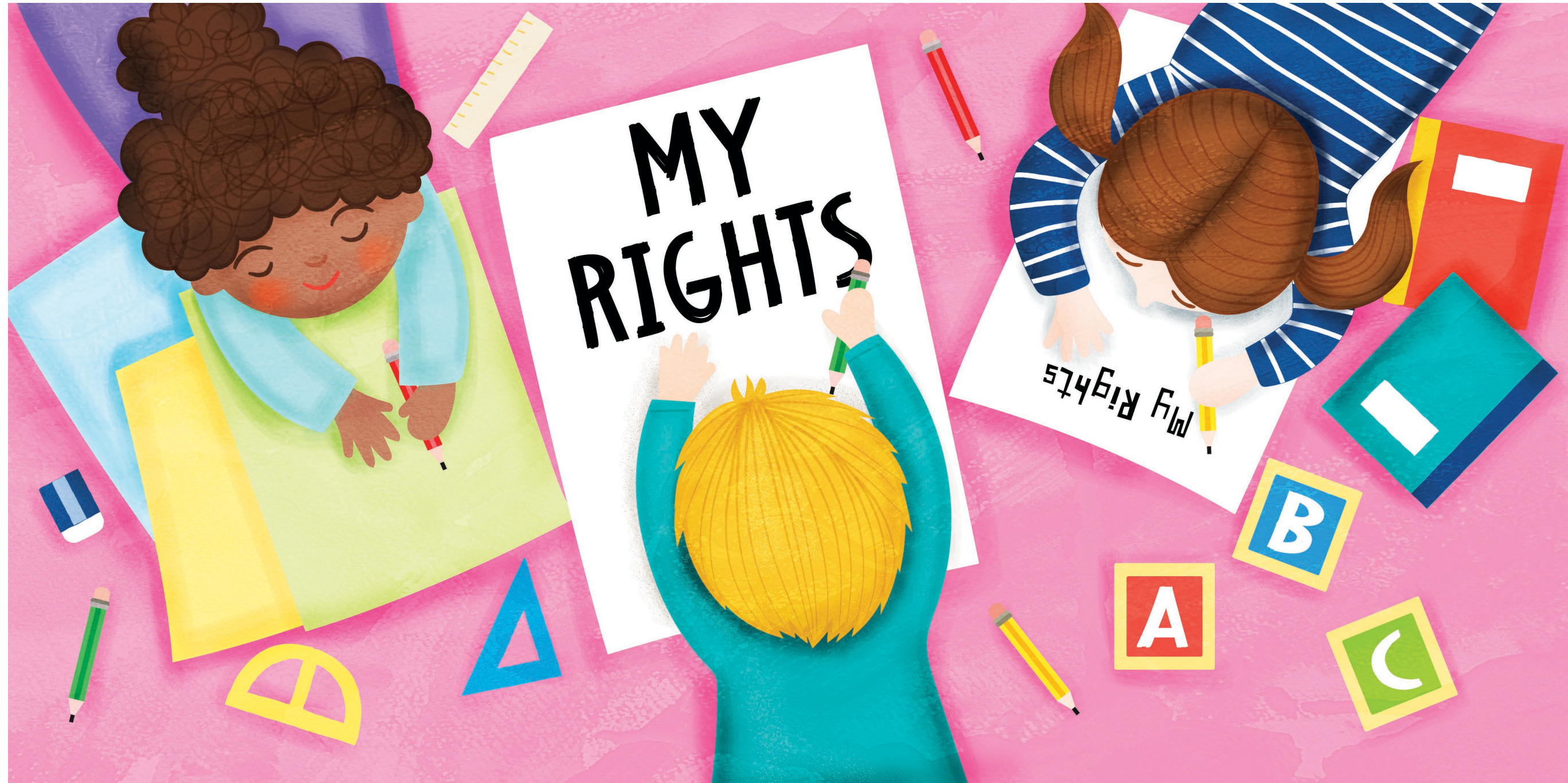
- Duty to consult with children and young people

UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

- Gives legal effect to children's rights in Scots law
- Duty to act compatibly with the UNCRC
- Strengthens access to justice for children



A Children's Human Rights Approach



Origin of a children's human rights approach

The Right Way: Developed in Wales by the Observatory on Human Rights and Social Justice for the Children's Commissioner for Wales

Five principles:

1. Embedding
2. Equality and non-discrimination
3. Empowerment
4. Participation
5. Accountability

Making rights a reality for all children in Wales



THE RIGHT WAY

A Children's Rights Approach in Wales

A Children's Rights Approach is a principled and practical framework for working with children, grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Making rights
a reality

Children's human rights approach in Scotland

In Scotland: Together worked with Children's Parliament, JustRight Scotland, JRS KnowHow and the Welsh Observatory to explore the skills and knowledge professionals need to implement children's human rights. This included:

- Testing the principles of a Children's Human Rights Approach
- Building a skills and knowledge framework and training plan

The principles are embedded in Scottish Government's 'Guidance on taking a children's human rights approach'



Five principles

Embedding: Putting children's rights at the core of decision making, planning, and the delivery of services

Equality and non-discrimination: Ensuring that every baby, child and young person has an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential

Empowerment: Building the agency and capacity of children and young people

Participation: Listening to children and young people and taking their views seriously

Accountability: Delivering a proactive culture of responsibility for children's rights





NO DISCRIMINATION

Article 14 of the ECHR

You have the right to protection
against discrimination.

This means that nobody can treat
you badly because of your
colour, sex or religion.

If you speak another language,
have a disability, rich or poor

Five principles

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Case studies: the State of Children's Rights Report 2026



SOCRR 2026

Full of case studies exploring how to use a children's human rights approach in practice.

Shetland Council: Shetland Youth Voice helping shape transport decisions

Highland Council: Library of Voices, created to help respect views shared by children

Aberdeen Council: using child rights budgeting with children to shape the 2025/26 budget

PLUS (Forth Valley) Ltd: delivering inclusive participation to ensure a disabled child could inform and support recruitment



Thank you for taking part



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