

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations 2008



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Content



- UNCRRC – recent concluding observations
- Specific focus on children with disabilities
- Group activity



Children are not mini persons with mini rights, mini feelings and mini human dignity.

They are vulnerable human beings with full rights which require more, not less protection.

Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe, 2005

UNCRC - The UK Government's Commitment



- The UK government ratified the treaty in 1991
- This committed them to take all possible steps to bring guidance and legislation in line with the convention
- They must report on progress every 5 years to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
- The latest UK report was published in July 2007



The Reporting Cycle in Wales



- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is unusual in that it gives **NGOs** (non-governmental organisations) a formal role in reporting.
- The NGO Report; ***Stop, Look and Listen*** was launched on November 20th 2007.
- Funky Dragon launched their reports, ***Our Rights, Our Story*** and ***Why do People's ages go up and not down?*** on 20th November 2007 too.
- The Children's Commissioners across the UK also submitted a joint report.

All of the above groups then gave evidence to the Committee in Geneva

Commissioners' report - Children with Disabilities



- Not highlighted by Committee in 2002
- Comparative lack of enjoyment of CRC rights, e.g. play, education, participation
- Lack of data across the UK
- Lack of progress in Wales - health
- Transition issues
- Autonomy and protection
- Link to poverty
- **Recommendations**
- Data needs to be consistently collected to inform planning at local and national levels
- Planning for transition into adulthood – independence
- Major service provision gaps need to be addressed
- Simplify process of applying for benefits and increase take up



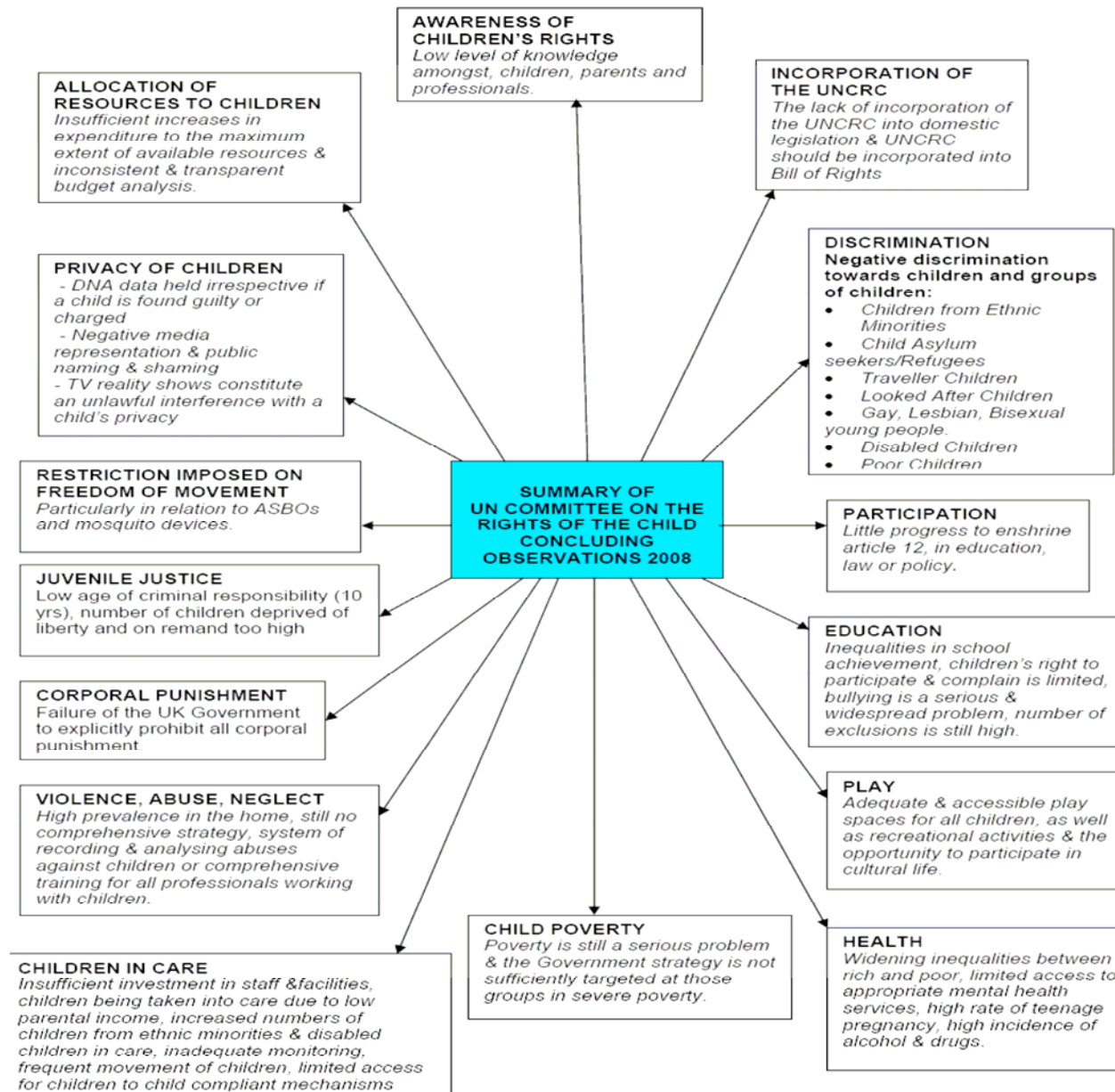
The UN Concluding Observations

The Committee made “concluding observations” (recommendations) that the UK needs to address:

- The portrayal of children and young people in society
- The intolerance of children in public spaces
- The use of ASBOS
- The low age of criminal responsibility
- Outlaw all forms of physical punishment of children
- Improving services for children with disabilities
- The right of children to rest and leisure

Full text -

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/AdvanceVersions/CRC.C.GBR.CO.4.pdf>



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Children with disabilities



- 52. The Committee welcomes the State party's initiatives undertaken at national as well as at local level in terms of analysing and improving the situation of children with disabilities. The Committee, however, is concerned that:
 - a) there is no comprehensive national strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities into society;
 - b) children with disabilities continue to face barriers in the enjoyment of their rights guaranteed by the Convention, including in the right to access to health services, leisure and play.



- 53. In the light of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96) and the Committee's general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:



- a.) take all necessary measures to ensure that legislation providing protection for persons with disabilities, as well as programmes and services for children with disabilities, are effectively implemented;
- b.) develop early identification programmes;
- c.) provide training for professional staff working with children with disabilities, such as medical, paramedical and related personnel, teachers and social workers;
- d.) develop a comprehensive national strategy for the inclusion of children with disability in the society;
- e.) undertake awareness-raising campaigns on the rights and special needs of children with disabilities, encourage their inclusion in society and prevent discrimination and institutionalization;
- f.) consider ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

Other references to children with disabilities



- 32 Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that insufficient action has been taken to ensure the rights enshrined in article 12 to children with disabilities.
- No concluding observation
- 68. The Committee, while appreciating that the England Children's Plan provides for the largest ever central Government investment in children's play, is concerned that, with the sole exception of Wales, the right to play and leisure is not fully enjoyed by all children in the State party, especially due to poor play infrastructures, notably for those children with disabilities.
- **Concluding Observation**
- **69 The State party should pay particular attention to provide children, including those with disabilities, with adequate and accessible playground spaces to exercise their play and leisure activities.**

Progress in Wales



- Disabled Children Matter Wales campaign established
- Disabled Facilities Grant – parental contribution scrapped – recent report found positive impact of this change
- Children’s right of appeal to Special Educational Needs Tribunal for Wales
- Participation networks in Wales
- Children’s rights practice exchange

Disabled Children Matter Wales



- **The Disabled Children Matter Wales campaign wants disabled children and young people in Wales to have ...**

The right information at the right time

A real choice of quality education

The health services they need to lead an ordinary life

Full access to play and leisure activities

A real say in planning the services they receive

Full access to community facilities

Enough money to live on

Reports in Wales



- *Why is it that are disabled young people are always left until last?*
- National Assembly for Wales Equality of Opportunity Committee (2007)
- *Are you listening* (2003)?
- *We're on the way* (2008) Welsh Assembly Government
- Using each of the Seven Core Aims for All Children and Young People as headings, it summarises achievements to date under the sub-heading “Where are we now?” and then sets out initiatives which are either in hand or planned for the near future as “Where are we going?”.

Contact a Family



- Published the results of a survey looking at the financial situation of families with a disabled child in the UK.

Key findings include:

- One in six disabled children lives in a household struggling to afford food and heating
- Almost half of families have borrowed money from friends and family, with one in five using the cash to pay their heating bills
- One in 14 children with a disability or medical condition is living under threat of losing their home.
- http://www.dcmw.org.uk/news_item.cfm?id=27



In pairs, discuss which of the concluding observations relating to disabled children would you start with?

Place them in order, 1 to 6 with 1 being the highest priority