

For teachers and youth workers

GUIDANCE NOTES

To support completion
of the online survey
by children and
young people

YOUTH@CLC *RIGHTS HERE
RIGHT NOW.*

Children and Young People's Survey

CONTEXT



Reporting to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child about children's rights

The UK ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC] in 1991. Every few years, the UK government and devolved administrations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland submit a periodic report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child [UN Committee] about progress in implementation of the UNCRC.

The UN Committee then receives reports from other interested bodies before examining the UK government and producing concluding observations which outline progress and make recommendations about actions required to ensure the realisation of children's rights. The last examination was in 2016. The UK government is due to submit its

sixth periodic report in June 2022, and the next examination of progress is scheduled for January 2023.

YOUTH@CLC are the youth advisory panel to the Children's Law Centre. They are a group of young people aged 14–17. In September 2022, on behalf of all children and young people in this jurisdiction, YOUTH@CLC will be sending a children and young people's report to the UN Committee as part of the process of periodic reporting. This report will contain a compilation of children and young people's views and experiences - gathered through this online survey, workshops or meetings with specific groups who experience vulnerabilities or disadvantages due to the particular circumstances of their lives. It will

also include data from research and consultations carried out by organisations working with children, young people and families since the 2016 examination.

The youth-led children and young people's report will be submitted alongside an adult-led NGO stakeholder report (based on information provided by non-government organisations working with children and young people plus analysis of relevant legislation, policies and statistics). Both reports will inform the UN

Committee's next examination, with a focus on children's rights in this jurisdiction. While the NGO stakeholder report will provide the UN Committee with a comprehensive overview of the state of children's rights in relation to all the Articles within the UNCRC, the youth-led children and young people's report will focus on the extent to which children and young people in this jurisdiction are enjoying generic rights which are relevant to every child, regardless of their particular circumstances.



Article 2:
The right to non-discrimination



Article 6:
The right to survival and development, to the maximum extent possible



Article 12:
The right of every child to express their views in all matters affecting them, and to have those views taken seriously



Ninety five percent of all calls to CHALKY, the Children's Law Centre's legal advice line, are made by adults on behalf of children and young people. YOUTH@CLC feel strongly that government, educators, parents and advisors could do more to

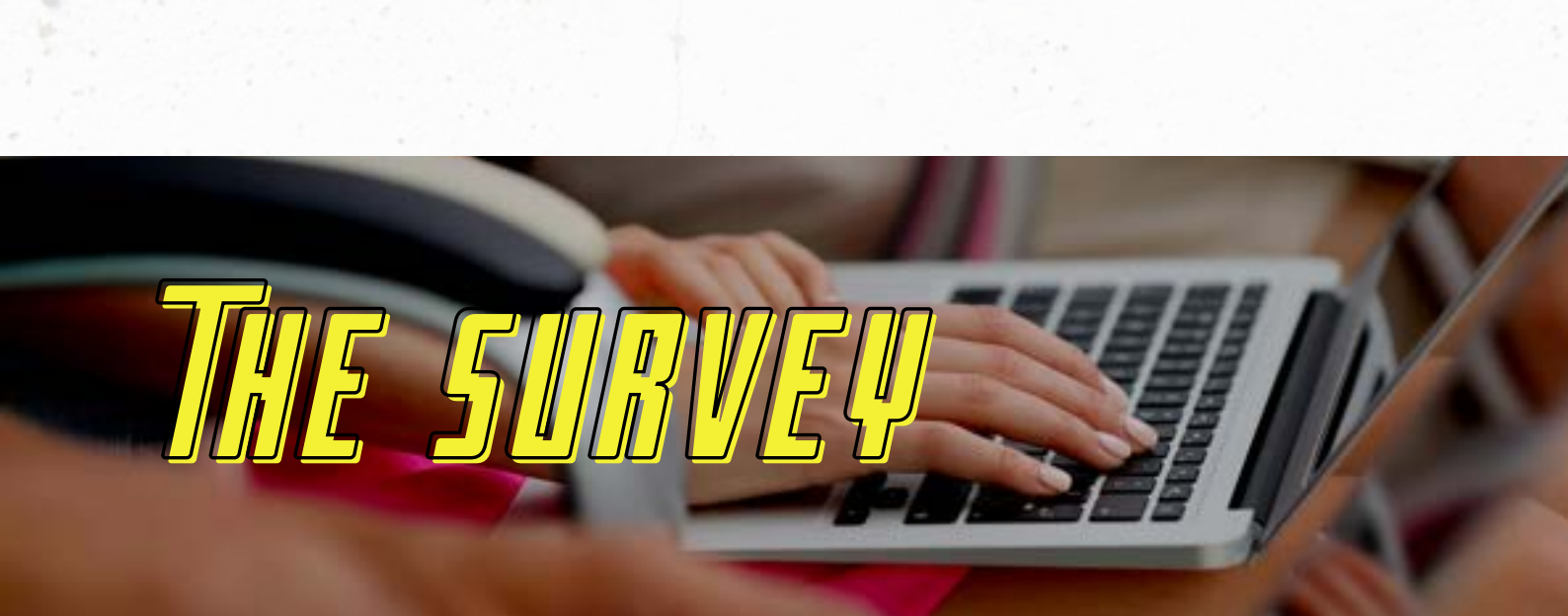
inform children and young people about their rights and to empower them, where possible, to claim their rights directly for themselves. The final section of the survey therefore relates to Article 42 of the UNCRC.



Article 42:

All children, young people and adults should know about the principles and provisions of the UNCRC

A pair of hands is shown from the bottom, holding a large, rectangular white sheet of paper. The paper is held flat against a light grey background. In the center of the paper, the words "CHILDREN'S RIGHTS" are written in a bold, red, hand-drawn font. The text is split across two lines: "CHILDREN'S" on the top line and "RIGHTS" on the bottom line. The hands are positioned at the bottom corners of the paper, with fingers gripping the edges. The lighting is even, and the background is a plain, light grey surface.



THE SURVEY

There are five sections to the survey. It should take 15 minutes to complete

Section 1 - Demographics

This information will clarify who responded to the survey in terms of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, religion, disability or SEN, entitlement to free school meals, living arrangements, geographical location.

Note: Some children and young people may need assistance in understanding the terminology used in a few of the questions - you may need to provide definitions or explanations. Although these are included either in brackets or additional definitions where a word or phrase is underlined in the survey.

Section 2 - UNCRC Article 12: Participation

This section focuses on children and young people's enjoyment of the right to have their voices heard and taken into account in decisions affecting them.

Section 3 - UNCRC Article 2: Non-discrimination

This section focuses on the extent to which children and young people feel they enjoy the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination.

Section 4 - UNCRC Article 6: Survival and development

This section focuses on whether children and young people feel they receive the support and protections required to ensure they survive and develop to the maximum extent possible.

Section 5 - UNCRC Article 42: Knowledge about children's rights & the UNCRC

This final section focuses on the extent to which children and young people understand what their rights are and how to 'claim' them, especially if they feel their rights are being breached.

The survey will be accessible from <https://childrenslawcentre.org.uk/survey/> from 14th March - 14th April 2022. Please encourage the children and young people with whom you work to complete the survey.

For ease of data analysis, we would prefer it if you could encourage and assist pupils / young people to complete the survey online. In exceptional cases, where it would be easier for some children and young people to complete the survey manually, please contact Sinead McSorley at the Children's Law Centre for hard copies and we can arrange to have these sent to you: sinead@childrenslawcentre.org

If you would like to do some preparatory activities, suggested questions for discussion are attached along with a template for you to record the issues raised during discussion. Please email the completed template to Sinead.

Thank you.

Youth@CLC and the Children's Law Centre.

YOUTH@CLC

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