

Respecting & Promoting Children's Rights

How our work supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Information for Parents, Carers & Professionals

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

Scotland, along with other countries that have signed the UNCRC, agrees that the rights of children should be protected and promoted in all areas of their life.

The rights covered in the Convention are described in 54 'articles' that cover all aspects of a child's life. These articles are universal, inalienable, indivisible and

interdependent. In other words, they apply to everyone under the age of 18, they cannot be taken away or separated from each other and they depend on each other.

You can learn more at the website of the Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland: [Child Rights | The Rights of Children and Young People - CYPCCS](#)

We have listed some of these rights below, along with examples of how our work at Salvesen Mindroom Centre supports them.

Article Number	What it says	How we support it
Article 2	All children have these rights All children have the rights set out in the UNCRC, and individual children and young people shouldn't be discriminated against when these rights are realised.	Our support is available to anyone in Scotland under the age of 25.
Article 3	Adults must do what's best for me Article 3 says that the best interests of children and young people should be thought about at all levels of society.	We provide advice and support to parents, carers and professionals so that they can help make sure the best interests of young people affected by neurodiversity are being met
Article 4	The Government should make sure my rights are respected Article 4 of the UNCRC says that the Scottish Government and UK Government should both work to make sure the Convention is known about and upheld.	We are members of a wide range of cross-party groups in the Scottish government to voice issues affecting neurodivergent children and young people. We also write to government when there are things that we believe they need to take action on, and we respond to consultations that government issue.

Article Number	What it says	How we support it
Article 6	<p>I should be supported to live and grow</p> <p>Article 6 of the UNCRC recognises that all children and young people have the right to survive and the right to develop.</p>	<p>The support and advice that we give to parents, carers and professionals helps them to make sure that young people who are affected by neurodiversity live in an environment that supports their wellbeing and enables them to develop.</p>
Article 12	<p>I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously</p> <p>Article 12 says children and young people have the human right to have opinions and for these opinions to be heard and taken seriously.</p>	<p>We help parents, carers and professionals to better understand the needs of neurodivergent young people, and to listen to what they think. We also work directly with children and young people to help them voice their opinions and in some cases we speak on their behalf.</p>
Article 15	<p>I have the right to meet with friends and to join groups</p> <p>Article 15 of the UNCRC makes it clear that – like all people in the world – children and young people have the human right to freedom of association.</p>	<p>We advise parents and carers on what facilities are available in their area for the young people in their care. We also offer advice and support to people who provide groups for young people so that those affected by neurodiversity can enjoy them alongside others.</p>
Article 23	<p>If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education</p> <p>All children and young people have the right to be safe and happy. When a child or young person has a disability, people should make sure it does not get in the way of this.</p>	<p>For children and young people whose neurodivergence affects their learning we offer advice and support to the people who are responsible for teaching them and managing their education. We also work with organisations like the General Teaching Council for Scotland and teacher training colleges to make sure teachers in Scotland have a better understanding of how neurodiversity can impact on learning, and how they can help.</p>
Article 24	<p>I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food</p> <p>Article 24 of the UNCRC says that children and young people's health should be as good as possible.</p>	<p>We provide advice and support to health professionals so that they can better understand the needs of neurodivergent young people and make sure that their health and wellbeing are the best they can be.</p>
Articles 28 & 29	<p>I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment</p> <p>Article 28 of the UNCRC says that all children and young people have the right to education no matter who they are.</p> <p>Article 29 of the UNCRC says that a child or young person's education should help their mind, body and talents be the best they can.</p>	<p>We provide advice and support to educational professionals to help them better meet the needs of young people affected by neurodiversity so that the young person can flourish.</p> <p>We provide advice and support to parents and carers who believe that their child's rights are not being met in their educational provision. We help them to understand these rights and to access appropriate support for their child.</p> <p>We also provide direct support and advocacy to young people who want to raise concerns about their education.</p>

Article Number	What it says	How we support it
Article 31	<p>I have a right to relax and play</p> <p>Article 31 of the UNCRC says that children and young people have the right to have fun in the way they want to.</p>	<p>We provide advice and support to professionals who provide play facilities so that young people affected by neurodiversity can enjoy equal access to them.</p> <p>We provide advice and support to parents and carers who want to request an assessment of needs for their child, as well in other areas of their life involving social work. We support and advise social work professionals to help them better understand the specific needs of neurodivergent young people.</p>
Article 32	<p>I should not be made to do dangerous work</p> <p>Article 32 of the UNCRC says that children and young people shouldn't be able to work until they reach a certain age.</p>	<p>We provide advice to employers who have young neurodivergent employees or students on work placements so that they can make sure the young person is safe and able to do their best in the workplace.</p>
Article 39	<p>I have the right to get help if I have been hurt, neglected or badly treated</p> <p>Article 39 of the UNCRC says children and young people have the right to recover from difficult things that happen to them.</p>	<p>Sometimes a young person suffers harm because the people that care for them don't understand their needs. We work with parents, carers and professionals to help them understand the needs of neurodivergent young people to help reduce this risk, and when it does happen, to help them do what's best to help the child or young person recover.</p>
Article 40	<p>I have the right to get legal help and to be treated fairly if I have been accused of breaking the law</p> <p>Children and young people have the right to get legal help and to be treated fairly if they have been accused of breaking the law.</p>	<p>We work with people in the criminal justice system to help them understand the needs of neurodivergent young people. We also work directly with young people who are involved in legal processes to help them express their opinions when they are unable to do this on their own.</p>
Article 42	<p>Everyone should know about the UNCRC</p> <p>Article 42 of the UNCRC says that all children, young people and adults should know about the Convention.</p>	<p>We promote the UNCRC in our work with parents, carers and professionals, including when we deliver training or produce literature and online resources.</p>

