



DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL DCI  
DÉFENSE DES ENFANTS INTERNATIONALE DEI  
DEFENSA DE NIÑAS Y NIÑOS INTERNACIONAL DNI  
*The worldwide movement for children's rights*

Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group



together  
Scottish Alliance for  
Children's Rights



Children's  
Rights Alliance  
for England

## United Nations Human Rights Council 36th Session

21st September 2017

Item 6, consideration of UPR reports

### Consideration of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr President,

Defence for Children International is delivering this statement together with the Children's Rights Alliance for England, Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group, and Together (Scottish Alliance for Children).<sup>1</sup>

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the UPR of the UK<sup>2</sup>, in particular the recommendations relating to children's rights.

We welcome efforts to improve protection of children's rights, including a child rights duty on Ministers in Scotland and Wales and a child rights 'programme of action' in England; significantly reducing the numbers of children in prison and steps to better protect children from harm.

However, the UK is only supporting 42% of the recommendations received. We urge the UK to reconsider its position and strongly encourage implementation of recommendations concerning:

- Safeguarding of the Human Rights Act<sup>3</sup>
- The ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)<sup>4</sup>
- The withdrawal of its declaration to Article 1 of the CRC Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict<sup>5</sup>
- The incorporation of the UNCRC into domestic law<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **The Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE)** works with 150 organisational and individual members to promote and campaign to protect children's rights and the UNCRC in England. See [www.CRAE.org.uk](http://www.CRAE.org.uk); **Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)** is an alliance of over 360 NGO and individual members that works to improve the awareness, understanding and implementation of the UNCRC in Scotland. See [www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk). The Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group is a national alliance of non-governmental and academic agencies tasked with monitoring and promoting the UNCRC in Wales. It is currently facilitated by **Children in Wales**, the national umbrella organisation. See [www.childreninwales.org.uk](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (27<sup>th</sup> July 2017) United Kingdom and Northern Ireland A/H RC/36/9

<sup>3</sup> Recommendations 134.66; 134.67; 134.68; 134.69; 134.70; 134.71; 134.72; 134.73; 134.74; 134.75; 134.76; 134.77;

<sup>4</sup> Recommendations 134.1; 134.2; 134.3; 134.7; 134.12; 134.17; 134.18; 134.19; 134.20; 134.21;

<sup>5</sup> Recommendations 134.22;

<sup>6</sup> Recommendations 134.60



- The establishment of coordination and monitoring structures to ensure full CRC implementation<sup>7</sup> and adopting a human rights action plan<sup>8</sup>
- The provision of appropriate legal aid to all children<sup>9</sup>
- The review of anti-terrorism measures<sup>10</sup>
- The training of police on human rights, including on excessive use of force<sup>11</sup>
- The strengthening of measures to combat child trafficking<sup>12</sup>
- The increase in efforts to eradicate child poverty<sup>13</sup>
- The non-detention of children for immigration purposes<sup>14</sup>; and the guarantee of family reunification rights for separated children<sup>15</sup>
- The prohibition of all corporal punishment in the family<sup>16</sup>
- The raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility<sup>17</sup> and the abolition of life sentences for persons under 18 years old<sup>18</sup>

We urge the UK Government and devolved administrations to consult with civil society in UPR follow up.

Thank you.

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<sup>7</sup> Recommendations 134.59

<sup>8</sup> Recommendation 6.79

<sup>9</sup> Recommendation 134.154

<sup>10</sup> Recommendations 134.62; 134.128; 134.29; 134.30; 134.131

<sup>11</sup> Recommendation 134.134

<sup>12</sup> Recommendations 134.138; 134.139; 134.140; 134.141; 134.142; 134.143; 134.44; 134.145; 134.146; 134.147

<sup>13</sup> Recommendations 134.164; 134.168; 134.191; 134.192

<sup>14</sup> Recommendations 134.217; 134.219

<sup>15</sup> Recommendation 134.222; 134.223

<sup>16</sup> Recommendations 134.193; 134.194; 134.195; 134.196; 134.197; 134.198; 134.199;

<sup>17</sup> Recommendations 134.205; 134.206; 134.207; 134.208;

<sup>18</sup> Recommendations 134.203; 134.204;