



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).¹

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the UPR of the UK², 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 Act³
- The ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)⁴
- The withdrawal of its declaration to Article 1 of the CRC Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict⁵

¹ **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; **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. 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

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

³ 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;

⁴ Recommendations 134.1; 134.2; 134.3; 134.7; 134.12; 134.17; 134.18; 134.19; 134.20; 134.21;

⁵ Recommendations 134.22;



- The incorporation of the UNCRC into domestic law⁶ The establishment of coordination and monitoring structures to ensure full CRC implementation⁷ and adopting a human rights action plan⁸
- The provision of appropriate legal aid to all children⁹
- The review of anti-terrorism measures¹⁰
- The training of police on human rights, including on excessive use of force¹¹
- The strengthening of measures to combat child trafficking¹²
- The increase in efforts to eradicate child poverty¹³
- The non-detention of children for immigration purposes¹⁴; and the guarantee of family reunification rights for separated children¹⁵
- The prohibition of all corporal punishment in the family¹⁶
- The raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility¹⁷ and the abolition of life sentences for persons under 18 years old¹⁸

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

Thank you.

⁶ Recommendations 134.60

⁷ Recommendations 134.59

⁸ Recommendation 6.79

⁹ Recommendation 134.154

¹⁰ Recommendations 134.62; 134.128; 134.29; 134.30; 134.131

¹¹ Recommendation 134.134

¹² Recommendations 134.138; 134.139; 134.140 134.141; 134.142; 134.143; 134.44; 134.145 134.146 134.147

¹³ Recommendations 134.164; 134.168; 134.191 134.192

¹⁴ Recommendations 134.217; 134.219

¹⁵ Recommendation 134.222; 134.223

¹⁶ Recommendations 134.193; 134.194; 134.195; 134.196; 134.197; 134.198; 134.199;

¹⁷ Recommendations 134.205 134.206; 134.207; 134.208;

¹⁸ Recommendations 134.203; 134.204;