



**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
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**SUBMISSION BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS OF HINTALOVON CHILD
RIGHTS FOUNDATION FOR THE UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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1. Child participation

Reality:

- The 2 most important things that Hungary can do to improve the situation of children are high-quality education and good job opportunities (77%), more opportunities to influence the country's future (43%).¹
- Taking the views of children into consideration is closely linked with their sense of security. Those who feel more secure also feel that their opinions are better taken into account. The reverse is also true: children who feel that their opinion does not matter feel less secure.¹

Opinions:

- *"Sharing opinions is not secure in Hungary today. Anyone who goes out to demonstrate must be aware that they may experience atrocities because of this. That is something I undertake, I am going to protest and stand up for my rights."*¹
- *"I think the most important thing is for a child to feel safe. We can see that that feeling is also related to how much we feel that our opinion matters. Freedom of opinion is also linked to obtaining information and non-discrimination. That's why I think it would be very important not only to make the children's opinions feel important but also to employ them. This UPR report is an opportunity for us. Thank You."*

Suggestions:

- Involve children more in the issues that affect them.
- Adults should listen to the children's opinions more carefully.

¹ Children's report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child HUNGARY, 2019



2. Education

Reality:

- Only 1 in 10 children enjoy learning, and one fifth of children say that there is too much abuse in schools.²
- Half of the children have felt that they were not accepted by the other children, while 27% of the children had familiar experiences with teachers.²
- Children primarily say that the schools would be safer if no one was treated badly because of being different (56%) and if there were more adult professionals whom they could turn to (46%).²

Opinions:

- *“Everyone has the right to education and information, the parent, the teacher as well. After all, only adults can help us. But to do this, they have to adapt to the children and their problems.”*
- *“Not only is this the mood of our everyday lives, but it is also the basis for our confidence in the future and our current assessment of how much we love and find interesting what we learn at school. This can easily take away the mood and confidence and motivation of anyone, not only from education, the future but also from self-confidence. The school has the greatest impact on us, this is the soil we stand on. That’s why the biggest changes are needed here. ”*
- *“Sometimes teachers classify and express themselves about students based on prejudices. Most of the time, they even show which students they like better or less, they are publicly discriminated against and give other marks for the same performance.”*

Suggestions:

Children should learn about their rights at school too.
Teachers should be trained to be able to talk to children about these topics.
There should be no discrimination at school.

² Children’s report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child HUNGARY, 2019



3. Safety

Reality:

- 4 out of 10 children felt they needed help with their spiritual or mental health or alcohol and drug addiction issues, but only 2 asked for help and 1 was satisfied with the care. Almost a fifth of the children did not ask for help because they did not know what to do (8%), were ashamed (6%) or because there was no access to care (5%).³
- Children are the least likely to feel safe on the Internet. 3 out of 5 do not feel safe.³
- 39,9% of the parents talked to their children for a total of 5 to 10 minutes about online safety and only a third of parents devoted more than half an hour to do this.⁴

Opinions:

- *"It's the duty of society to teach us how we can help others. Communication is a much better tool than any other physical device."*
- *"Under the age of 18, I need parental permission to get help. I couldn't go to a psychologist even though I should've done and that was because of my parents. I couldn't go to a gynecologist even though I thought I was pregnant. I couldn't turn to anyone."³*
- *"New generation, new problems. Let's evolve and learn about the present. Let's be in the present with the children. Adults should develop so that we can develop too into healthy and happy adults."*

Suggestions:

Help should be known and available to everyone.
Adults should talk more to children about internet safety.

³ Children's report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child HUNGARY, 2019

⁴ InternetMost ("InternetNow") representative online study questioning 13–17 year old children, HUNGARY, 2020.



4. Why we did this report?

As 18-year-old high school volunteers at the Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation, and as young adults, we started to think about child rights in Hungary. Children are just as much entitled to human rights as adults. The child is the adult of the future. It is obvious that a child will apply what he/she learns and experiences later on. But if an adult doesn't get these rights, how could children expect such an outcome for themselves? These rights are not black and white, material things. This is some kind of a way to view the world, a set of values. It is not enough if you are the only one who masters them, because if your environment doesn't put the same importance on them, you don't get them. The proper path towards human rights is mutual care and respect. We have to learn this point of view as early as possible, that means during our childhood. As children, our strongest bond is the one with our families, they shape our values. But, school is the place where we spend most of our time, where we encounter diverse ideas, diverse people, it is where we learn. Communities form us, and our teachers are bridges binding childhood and adulthood together. For the current generation, the internet is a parallel world, where both relationships and information are at their reach. However, this happens in a different format than usual, with a different set of rules.

A kid is just as human as an adult is. But we still have to evolve, grow. But in order for us to grow, adults have to grow as well. All research shows that a conversation is much more useful in building a feeling of safety than any physical object. Communication is key. It is how we gather information which is how we come to learn how the world is, and what our opportunities are. This is how our opinions and the picture we have of ourselves are made. The evolution of these aspects quickly brings us the ability to be unsatisfied with something, to think, to be creative, to find better solutions. While learning about the world, we tend to have the desire to gradually be more and more part of it. We want equal opportunities to make a difference. We want a microphone to test our voices, to use our inner power.

The teacher's role is key since they are the ones who form our future day by day. We trust them, we look up to them, so the quality and quantity of the knowledge and views they transfer to us are highly important. They have to be examples in our eyes. Education is an elevator, a temporary state towards adulthood. Nowadays, it is something that more and more children fear. We have doubts and questions. We are unsure about ourselves, our opportunities, our capabilities. Education is the solution, it's the thing that could change this outcome. School is the first community where we are present, which serves as a model for so long. This is why it's at school where we have to learn how to adapt to our mates, how to be curious about others. We should learn how to respect, value and accept others. We have to know how to be patient with other people. Again, the teacher's role is crucial.

"Needless to say, I fear for my future. I don't feel like I am standing on a safe and strong foundation, that I matter, that I will have opportunities and lastly that all my efforts will pay off someday. There are a lot of things I don't understand, and a lot of things I don't agree with this world. But I have an opinion and a set of values. And, I know that there is a big number of young



people around me who feel the same. So perhaps, my future isn't lost after all. Because together, as the adults of tomorrow, we know what brought us pain and dissatisfaction. So, we know what we have to change.” - Viktória Botos

Children like to be heard, especially in matters that concern them. They have this right. Information and safety are crucial so that no one fears to express their opinions, to defend them, yet respect the ones of others'. UPR submission is an opportunity is just like that, where you can tell others how you feel, and what you think about possible ways to change the world. You know that it goes to a good place, and even if not directly, you helped. You helped in making your life better. Thank you for this opportunity.

The report is based on the authors' opinion, the [Children's report](#) to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child HUNGARY, 2019 and the [InternetMost \(“InternetNow”\) representative online study](#) questioning 13–17 year old children, HUNGARY, 2020