

UNCRG

UPR AND UNCRPD

CONSULTATION 2021

WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The implementation of children's rights in Ireland:

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) consulted with children and young people to hear their views about children's rights in Ireland. The information is used for the preparation of reports to the UN under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Universal Periodic Review process.



1215 children aged
between 4 and 13 years
were recruited through
21 primary schools

THIS
IS WHAT
THEY SAID

46 young people aged 13
to 18 years were recruited
from Comhairle na nÓg
(youth councils).

Question

1

Best things about being a child and young person in Ireland

Lots of parks and
places to play

Sports, physical activities
and playing outdoors

meals, transport and
money provided by family

Not needing
to earn money

It's safe and
there are no
natural disasters

Free
Education

Family and
friends

Culture including language
and music and history

Beauty
of Country

Outdoor Space,
Clean air

Being able to go to
school and feel safe at
home and welcome

Leisure, youth services
and mental health services

More accepting of diversity
and self-expression

Opportunities to
have voices heard

Education- School,
college, university

Wages for
young people

Being accepted and
taken seriously for
who you are

Access to
basic needs

Freedom to
express themselves



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Question

2

What do you not like about being a child or young person in Ireland?

Not being able
to play outdoors

I don't like to
stay in the house
it's boring.

Absence of
indoor facilities

Problems with Education
System- e.g. Irish as a
compulsory subject, too
much homework, lack
of breaks in school

Environment/Climate -
bad weather (limits
outdoor activities), pollution,
littering and vandalism

The rain is
constantly falling

Bullying by peers,
siblings or older
teenagers

Problems with education
system: poor mental health
supports, not enough
adjustment for special
education, reliance on
exams, and points and
compulsory subjects

Online school
during lockdown

Poverty and
homelessness

Covid 19 experience
restrictions on school
life, loss of freedom.
Increased pressure put
on parents

Discrimination
and stereotyping of
young people

Inequalities experienced by
certain groups in society
such as asylum seekers,
homeless and other minority
groups and people living
outside urban areas



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Question

3

What is the one thing you would change for children and young people in Ireland?

Improved leisure, culture and play and more sporting activities

Improvements to the education system

No more poor people

Greater equality and end discrimination, have the same rights as adults

That people in the future don't have to worry about things like cancer and sickness

Environment/climate /end pollutions

Health and wellbeing (e.g. free health care, provide vaccines to children)

Less violence and abuse

Improved leisure facilities

More spaces for cycling safely

Reform of the education system

Address inequality

Accessibility for disabled people

Improve how young people input into matters affecting their lives

Get rid of racism

Address geographical divide

I would change coronavirus



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THIS IS WHAT
THEY SAID

Question

4

How do you feel young people's rights are valued in Ireland?

Access to
free school

Good opportunities
and basic rights

Not all children in Ireland,
such as children who are
homeless or in direct provision
or special care, can enjoy
all of their rights

Housing and poverty
needs to be addressed

Lack of choice and
facilities hindering Leisure,
Culture and Play

Education System not
flexible and responsive
to different needs

Inequity in the
Healthcare system

Need more voices
from seldom heard

Disparity between privileged
and those who do not have
basic needs met



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