

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.



THIS THEY SAID

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



Best things about being a child and young person in Ireland

Lots of parks and places to play

Outdoor Space,

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

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

Clean air

and mental health services More accepting of diversity

and self-expression

Leisure, youth services

Opportunities to have voices heard

Education-School, college, university

> Wages for young people

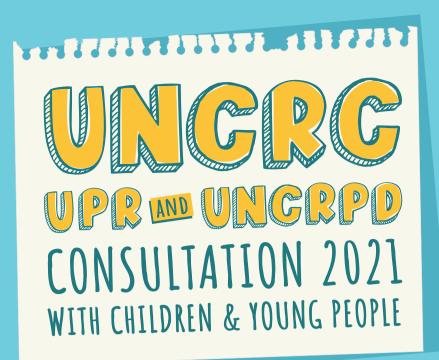
> > Access to basic needs

Being accepted and taken seriously for

who you are

Freedom to express themselves





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THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID

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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 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

environment/climate - con bad weather (limits outdoor activities), pollution, littering and vandalism

The rain is constantly falling

Bullying by peers, siblings or older teenagers 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



Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland



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THIS IS WHAT HEY SAID

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No more

poor people

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

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

Reform of the education system

> **Address** inequality

Accessibility for disabled people

More spaces for

cycling safely

Improve how young people input into matters affecting their lives

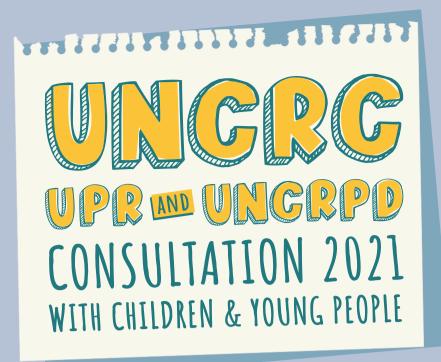
> Get rid of racism

Address geographical divide

> I would change coronavirus



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THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID



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

Access to free school

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

Housing and poverty needs to be addressed

Lack of choice and facilities hindering Leisure, Culture and Play

Inequity in the Healthcare system Education System not flexible and responsive to different needs

Need more voices from seldom heard

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland Disparity between privileged and those who do not have basic needs met