

Scottish Youth Parliament Child Rights Impact Assessment



A Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) is a tool to help map and identify the impact of a policy, proposal, or organisation on the rights of children and young people. An organisational CRIA, as this is, will be slightly different to a policy or project CRIA - which should be done at the earliest possible stage and inform the planning process. The purpose of this CRIA is to explicitly identify the rights that the work of SYP impact to help SYP staff and Trustees find ways they can further fulfil their role as defenders of children and young people's human rights.

Scottish Youth Parliament

Updated September 2023



Context

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) is a rights-based organisation, using The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as the basis for our vision, mission and values. In particular, SYP embodies Article 12 of the UNCRC, which states that young people have the right to express their views freely and have their opinions listened to in all matters affecting them. As a completely youth-led charity, the words and sentiment of Article 12 have profound importance for our work.

SYP is the democratic voice of Scotland's young people. Our vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its young people. Our goal is to make this vision a reality, in order to ensure young people in Scotland grow up loved, safe and respected, and able to realise their full potential.

Rights is one of SYP's core values - *SYP are passionate about making young people aware of their rights, and ensuring that local and national governments uphold their rights.* As a rights-based organisation, with a national reach, who advocate and campaign for young people's rights to be upheld, we have an inherent impact on the rights of the young people we work with and Scotland's young people more generally.

Throughout this we will use "young people's rights" to refer to the rights of the people that SYP represents from ages 12-18, with reference also to young people 18-25 (though they are not covered by the UNCRC). This is not to say that SYP's work won't have an impact on the rights of children under the age of 12, but that the focus of our work is on the age group that MSYPs have a democratic mandate to represent.

The anticipated incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law has put children and young people's rights into the national spotlight. CRIA's are a key tool for children and young people, third-sector organisations, Government, and public bodies to work together on to enable young people to fully realise their rights. The process of identifying the impact of our work on young people's rights and addressing rights concerns raised in CRIA's must be continuous to ensure that poor practice does not slip into work. SYP will commit to evaluating the CRIA through a process of Children's Rights Impact Evaluation (CRIE) every year.

This is SYP's first organisational CRIA. Given the relative lack of guidance and best practice for developing organisational CRIAs (as opposed to ones for a specific policy, project, or piece of legislation) the process and structure of future CRIAs may change.

Impact Assessment

1. Which articles of the UNCRC does SYP predominantly impact on? And what is that impact?

SYPs wider impact is determined by the priorities of our members and of Scotland's young people. So, the articles SYP's work impacts will vary with the policy and campaigning priorities of the membership at any given time as well as the project work that SYP choose to take forward.

However, below we outline the impact on the general principles of the UNCRC, followed by other articles that SYP's work predominantly impacts on. The specific articles are outlined below, beginning with the general principles.

General principle	Challenges. potential negative impacts and risks associated with non-delivery	Case study evidence	Sept 2023 - Progress against actions
<p>Article 2 (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential perpetuation for micro-aggression (e.g., for people of colour) - Political systems can make it difficult for seldom-heard groups to have their voices heard - Political systems, within SYP, can be a barrier to women and people of colour having their voices heard. - SYP's is seen as not taking an intersectional approach to our diversity and inclusion work. 	<p>Every term SYP carries out a diversity survey to help the Board and staff team identify progress on improving the diversity of elected MSYPs. The results of the survey help inform actions taken by the Board to improve diversity. The 2022-23 SYP Board have chosen to make Diversity their top priority and have made diversity and inclusion a standing item on Board agendas</p> <p>SYP's Movement and Women's Empowerment Programme reports have fed into the work of the Board and the staff team with a number of recommendations currently being actioned. SYP's Participation and Programmes team are considering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WEP programme and Movement recommendations being developed into action plans - LGBT Youth Charter work - Developing work on accessibility for young people with disabilities. - Diversity data of people standing in elections - Diversity and Inclusion item on Board agendas - MSYP induction has a specific D&I training with a focus on SYP values - Section on D&I in new handbook - New NVOs - Partnership work on young women's empowerment & engaging with decision-makers



		<p>how best to adapt the approach to ensure intersectional approach is taken.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seldom-heard group empowerment work including involvement in elections and in policy-making review. - AREP & Gender equality groups
<p>Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child protection policy being kept up to date - Conduct issues and managing those properly, balancing needs of victims and those who have been accused - Board responsibility for child protection - can put the Board in really difficult situations - Understanding of this right can be more challenging for MSYPs 	<p>Child protection is central to SYP's work including a regularly updated child protection policy developed in line with best practice and mandatory child protection training for all SYP staff and Board.</p> <p>Alongside this all MSYPs are given training on SYP's expected conduct and sign the Code of Conduct. When support is needed MSYPs are provided with information on what to do when they experience harassment, a mental health support line and have relationships with support workers in each local authority or NVO. The Code of conduct was reviewed throughout 2023 and the new version has been approved by the Board ensuring practice is up to date.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated child protection policy will be reviewed every two years - above and beyond the three years recommended in national guidance - Code of Conduct and disciplinary code to be reviewed with MSYPs - Mandatory CP training for all staff and for Board, CDCs, and project working groups. - Training for all MSYPs on conduct issues - More staff members have been trained to a higher CP standard, including female Managers - Information available to MSYPs on what to do if you experience harassment - Mental health support line & Calm subscription - Ongoing management of relationships with support workers - Work on participation strategy and our offer to manage capacity and reward for volunteering - Ensuring appropriate accessibility adjustments for SYP activities



<p>Article 6 (life, survival and development) Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people's services under threat by SG budget challenges 	<p>As a principle that underpins other UNCRC rights, article 6 is core to several strands of SYP's work, including on campaigning on the right to food, youth work, and several projects on young people's mental health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued campaigning work to support young people whose article 6 right is at risk e.g. Right to Food campaign - Social development of MSYPs using SYP's youth work ethos
<p>Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential impacts on mental health of engaging with young people on challenging topics - Risk of misrepresentation of young people's views to decision-makers. - Seldom-heard groups not being engaged and potential to exacerbate inequality - Challenges young people face in policy spaces and the pressure they are put under in doing that. - Barriers to participation not being removed and SYP putting young people in those spaces 	<p>As a youth-led charity, SYP's Governance and internal processes strive to embody article 12 of the UNCRC and to support young people across Scotland to realise this right. The SYP elections engage young people across Scotland, the Board is made up entirely of young people elected by other MSYPs, and other leadership roles available to MSYPs include as committees, conveners, and deputy conveners.</p> <p>The views of MSYPs are also central to the work of the youth-led Board with a system for members' requests in place to keep the Board accountable to MSYPs.</p> <p>SYP's <i>The Right Way</i> project resources were developed to support and challenge to decision-makers to uphold young people's Article 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SYP national elections - Internal SYP elections (eg AGM, Subject Committees) - Policy making, Sittings, and SYP events providing opportunities for young people to share their views - Campaign priorities - Support by SYP staff for MSYPs in challenging policy spaces with staff there to take on more challenging conversations - Briefings and support for partners to understand UNCRC - SYP projects as opportunities for decision-makers to engage directly with young people - Strong partnerships with SG & SP - NVO and partnership working ensuring working with those that face additional barriers - Staff understanding and training on participation framework and The Right Way resources



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Challenges of being a youth-led organisation with young people in leadership roles.- Budget challenges threatening our ability to make participation meaningful- Staff & MSYP capacity to meaningfully engage with groups/policy areas	<p>Right to be heard. SYP also developed our 'Participation Framework' using the resources from The Right Way and the Lundy Model of participation as the basis. Developed in partnership with young people, it focuses on three main components and ensures SYP upholds Article 12 in our work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voice and influence - We support young people to have their voices heard and influence change that improves the lives of Scotland's young people and raise awareness and promote the UNCRC.• Personal development - Participating in SYP supports young people to develop appropriate and relevant skills, knowledge, and experiences.• Incentive and reward - Participants and stakeholders are recognised for their participation in our work, through personal development, accreditation, and appropriate remuneration (financial or otherwise) where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cabinet and ET meetings ensure strategic approach to participation with Government - engage with review in 2023 to improve model in 2024.
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Article	Challenges & potential negative impacts	Case study	April 2023 - Progress against actions
<p>Article 4 (implementation of the Convention) Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political barriers - Limitation to the new version of the Bill - Incorporation being seen as the end point and implementation not involving YP - Capacity limiting number of issues we can be active on 	<p>As a rights-based organisation all of our work with Government supports and encourages them to promote and protect young people's rights.</p> <p>This year, SYP participated in the reporting cycle of the UNCRC by giving evidence young people's rights in Scotland, based on consultation work by SYP. The aim of this was to influence the Concluding Observations, which are the recommendations for the UK and Scottish Governments on what they need to do to ensure the UNCRC is being fulfilled. In particular, MSYPs spoke about mental health, education, poverty and food insecurity, and climate change. All of these issues, including specific asks, were included in the Concluding Observations, so young people's experiences of their rights were successfully incorporated into the reporting cycle. Following the new Concluding Observations, we are working with the Scottish Government to ensure young people continue to participate in the next stage of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role we play in implementation Legacy work on The Right Way, Right Here Right Now campaign or sharing views with the Strategic implementation Board - Campaigning work for UNCRC incorporation



		<p>cycle (implementation), including through a consultation workshop with the Children’s Rights policy team. Once again, a speech was given on the incorporation of the UNCRC at this year’s annual meeting with the Scottish Government’s Cabinet, asking for the UNCRC Incorporation (Scotland) Bill to be brought back and for young people’s continuous involvement in its implementation. The continued advocacy resulted in the Government giving further communication on the timeline of the Bill.</p>	
<p>Article 8 (protection and preservation of identity) Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child’s name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other groups of young people facing a rise in targeted discrimination - we put young people forward to work on these issues. - Organisational expertise to provide inclusive support (e.g. LGBT support) - Data collection for surveys on protected characteristics 	<p>SYP has been working towards our Gold LGBT Charter, facilitated by LGBT Youth Scotland. This requires us as an organisation to take proactive steps towards developing a more LGBT inclusive and supportive environment. This includes staff training and adapting internal policies to become more LGBT inclusive. This will have a positive impact on staff and young people’s rights to an identity.</p> <p>SYP has updated our data protection policies and methods of data collection in regard to our membership and young people not members of the youth parliament. Our data policy allows all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LGBT Youth Charter - New data protection policy and training - ensuring we collect data lawfully. - Ensuring communications on challenging issues such as GRR are anonymous and that support is given to MSYPs to keep their comms safe. - Encouraging people to use pronouns - Ask MSYPs for ‘preferred name’ and giving MSYPs the opportunity to choose a name not being written down



		respondents to self-submit a gender and sexual identity, allowing them to declare themselves rather than pick from a predetermined risk.	
<p>Article 13 (freedom of expression) Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefings too complicated or not written in youth-friendly language - Limits to MSYPs expressing views that are against SYP policy - Limits to MSYPs expressing party political views - MSYPs being invited into spaces where they aren't free to express views - Working on so many issues meaning we don't have as up to date or well researched information 	<p>SYP work to platform young people to express their thoughts freely and openly. SYP also work to provide accurate and impartial information to young people to support their right to freedom of expression.</p> <p>For example, the SYP policy making process allows any MSYP to put forward a policy on an issue important to them or their constituents. Throughout the process SYP staff and Conveners will work with the MSYP and provide advice and briefings to help develop a final policy. All MSYPs are then given the opportunity to vote on the policy - often after consulting their constituents - after reading a briefing provided by SYP staff which gives a variety of perspectives on the issue and impartial research to establish the policy context.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political impartiality training - Other policy training for MSYPs, including on speech giving - Campaigns chosen by MSYPs - Supporting MSYPs through policy briefings to simplify language -
<p>Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion) Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political impartiality stifling what MSYPs can say - Cultural events and celebrations not being respected by SYP 	<p>As per our core values and Charity Law, SYP is a politically impartial organisation. We require all our MSYPs - when representing SYP - to remain politically impartial. We delivered a series of political impartiality training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asking for cultural and religious needs at events - Political impartiality training and support - Separating MSYP work from individual political work, including



<p>religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NVO relationships breaking down if we don't respect this right - 	<p>in late 2022, promoting MSYPs understanding of rights-based approaches and how to discuss issues in an apolitical way. A significant component of this training is that MSYPs are within their right to have personal political beliefs and share these within a personal capacity.</p>	<p>through social media. MSYPs supported to understand this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actioning recommendations from The Movement in relation to policy passed at SYP79.
<p>Article 15 (freedom of association) Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenge creating a safe and inclusive space where all the young people involved in SYP can enjoy this right. - Managing members' right to personally identify with and become members of political parties or groups - whilst maintaining one of our core values as a politically impartial organisation. - Bringing the organisation into disrepute could impinge on future opportunities for this right 	<p>As an organisation that represents young people from across Scotland, SYP works with and supports young people to come together and meet other young people, including through events, Sittings, projects, and NVOs.</p> <p>SYP is a rights-based organisation and has long campaigned for the incorporation of UNCRC. SYP believes that engagement and consultation with groups directly impacted by a current or potential policy is vital in upholding a variety UNCRC Articles.</p> <p>An example of young people coming together is SYPs regular Sittings.</p> <p>We believe there are many benefits to young people coming together in this way. Young people are given an opportunity to meet other young people from across Scotland, to share ideas and to learn from each other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open and accessible elections so any young people who are interested are able to stand - Separate hats - joining other organisations but with a separate hat - Updated child protection policy will be reviewed every two years - above and beyond the three years recommended in national guidance - Code of Conduct and disciplinary code to be reviewed with MSYPs - Expanding NVO opportunities - Inclusive Sittings held across Scotland



		<p>We see this type of youth work as a fundamental part of our organisation and endeavour to continue and encourage this engagement for the benefit of all young people.</p> <p>MSYPs - including our board - have attended LGBTI+ pride marches throughout this year. SYP Sitings, NVO partnerships and other events add further examples.</p>	
<p>Article 16 (right to privacy) Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data protection... - Child protection guidance on privacy and what we report - YP saying something that can't be kept private - How we manage pronoun and name changes amongst the membership (privacy being key) - Right to be forgotten or withdraw consent - MSYP is a public role, can make this difficult 	<p>SYP updated our data protection policy in Summer 2023. The new policy was accompanied by training for staff, a data day where staff were supported to better manage their data and given time to sort filing structures, and training for Board members from a GDPR professional consultant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New data protection policy and training - Clearing non-MSYP data from things like surveys
<p>Article 17 (access to information from the media) Every child has the right to reliable information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a risk here that when we provide briefings, information, trainings, etc... for MSYPs that the research 	<p>As the 'voice of Scotland's young people' SYP have a role in sharing accurate and reliable information through our communications and media directly to the young people we</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing to platform young people in the media and on social media channels - Staff providing impartial and informative briefings for MSYPs such



<p>from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them</p>	<p>done by staff has a bias towards it, not the most up to date or poorly researched</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenge of keeping resources, such as Mind Yer Time, The Right Way, up to date 	<p>represent. We take this role extremely seriously and endeavour to accurately share the genuine views of young people through our policy, project, and campaigning work by ensuring staff support MSYPs to comprehensively research topics before sharing things like blogs and social media posts.</p> <p>In some cases, this also involves sharing resources and advice to young people through social media, newsletters, and media such as with the Mind Yer Time project. This project saw SYP work with Scottish Government and Children’s Parliament to develop resources and advice for young people to manage their screen time and their mental health. The importance of those resources being reliable, informative, and communicated effectively - knowing young people are looking to them for mental health support - was taken very seriously when creating the content for the Mind Yer Time website.</p>	<p>as Convener meetings or the MSYP Pack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing information and materials in youth-friendly and accessible language
<p>Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) Governments must do all they can to ensure that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential harm to the young people we work with as targets - As a youth work organisation, ensuring 	<p>SYP advocate for the protection of young people from violence, abuse and neglect. MSYPs often raise policy suggestions in relation to creating a safer place for young people in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated child protection policy will be reviewed every two years - above and beyond the three years recommended in national guidance



<p>children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.</p>	<p>child protection principles are maintained across the breadth of our work with young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perception that we don't have up to date policies and procedures harming young people involved - Upholding relationships with support workers and keeping young people safe 	<p>Scotland. In the 79th Scottish Youth Parliament Sitting in Summer, MSYPs passed policies on making tighter legislation on spiking, eliminating gender-based violence in public areas, and addressing abuse experienced in retail and hospitality jobs. For these policies and with staff support, MSYPs have developed action plans to help them achieve these goals. This has included further consultation work, social media campaigns and the development of toolkits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for Board and Staff on child protection - Strong relationships with Youth Work Managers and Support Workers - Political impartiality training - avoiding abuse on social media - Support given to MSYPs to engage on difficult or challenging topics.
<p>article 20 (children unable to live with their family) If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of specific seldom heard groups - Misrepresentation of views of this specific group - Tyranny of the majority issues - Safe spaces (including external spaces) 	<p>At our 2023 Summer Sitting, SYP supported an MSYP from care experience and an MSYP who was a young carer to deliver a workshop that educated our membership on the differences of these two experiences. They shared best practices in discussing these two experiences and the policies in place that are intended to support young people with these experiences. They also shared some of the challenges faced by care experienced young people and young carers and asked all members to make a pledge to support both these groups of young people. Both MSYPs reported that the session helped them feel that their unique experiences were</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NVO partnerships - Support worker and Local Authority partnerships ensuring care-experienced young people have support - Policy support for Care-experienced young people - SYP79 policy & Who Cares? HR Bill; DRH campaign and specific issues



		<p>recognised in the parliament and valued by their colleagues.</p>	
<p>Article 22 (refugee children) If a child is seeking refuge or has refugee status, governments must provide them with appropriate protection and assistance to help them enjoy all the rights in the Convention. Governments must help refugee children who are separated from their parents to be reunited with them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of specific seldom heard groups - Misrepresentation of views of this specific group - Tyranny of the majority issues - Safe spaces (including external spaces) 	<p>SYP have been working with the Scottish Refugee Council to support them to join as an associate member national voluntary organisation. This has included delivering an engagement workshop with the Scottish Refugee Council's Guardianship programme. Once an application has been accepted, young refugees and asylum seekers will have opportunities to join SYP projects and share their views on consultations, campaigns, and policies. We hope to support Scottish Refugee Council to build capacity and join in the future as a national voluntary organisation with MSYPs representing the views of refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland.</p> <p>In the last year, MSYPs passed two motions that have become SYP policy advocating for the rights of all displaced people in Scotland. The first proposed that all young refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland should receive educational maintenance allowance. The second proposed that all young refugees and asylum seekers should be able to access free further/higher education. These</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy campaigning on issues that help refugee CYP - free bus travel - Campaigning against the UK Gov's illegal migration Bill - Manifesto policy and other policy on family reunification



		policies enable MSYPS to actively campaign for change on these issues.	
<p>Article 23 A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of specific seldom heard groups - Misrepresentation of views of this specific group - Tyranny of the majority issues - Accessibility requirements not being met (the Office) - Barriers to online participation - Education and understanding of other MSYPs and staff on creating safe spaces and invisible disabilities (including external spaces) 	<p>SYP held a workshop at SYP80 on supporting young people with a disability in their transitions out of school and formal education settings. The workshop related to a manifesto policy passed on transitions as part of SYP's From Scotland's Young People manifesto.</p> <p>The workshop results fed into the Scottish Government team's engagement on a new strategy and the team fed back to SYP that they had used The Right Way materials as a core part of their planning for their broader young people's engagement plan. This was a case study shared through the Scottish Government's participation blog with staff across Government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy work on accessibility information being available for buildings - Policy work considering accessibility including on sustainability for example - NVO partnership - End of membership survey to include working group of MSYPs who identify as having a disability to shape questions - Events and activities asking for access and additional support needs in advance - Adaptations tailored to individual young people
<p>Article 24 (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity asks and workload could have a significant impact on the young people we work - Staff ability and training to support mental health 	<p>In March 2022 MSYPs consulted young people in their constituencies and voted for four priorities for their 2-year membership, three of which have a significant impact on young people's article 24 right - the right to food, climate crisis, and drug misuse as a public health issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy work on health, mental health, environment, and right to food - Dedicated members of staff for MSYPs in leadership roles - MH service improvement work through research and evaluation and campaigning work on this issue through Concluding Obs



well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this

The climate crisis specifically has been a focus of SYP's work for a number of years, including with work raising young people's voices at COP26 in Glasgow. This involved Mollie McGoran MSYP attending Conference of Youth to raise the priorities of Scotland's young people internationally as well as other MSYPs taking part in [The Moment](#) project and attending COP26 events. This resulted in a public commitment from the First Minister to work with SYP on including young people's voices in tackling the climate crisis.

On top of this, young people's mental health has been a focus of SYP's project and policy work. For example Abbie Wright MSYP currently sit on the [Scottish Government's Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Delivery Board](#) to represent young people. The Board's role in overseeing a set of reforms designed to ensure children and young people receive the support they need when they need it is critical to the development of young people. The MSYP on the Board ensures that young people's views are fed into that work.

- Board and Conveners Group evaluation and cycle of improvement
- Access to opportunities and reward from volunteering e.g. Sittings
- Mental health support line & Calm subscription



<p>Article 26 (social security) Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remuneration considerations and impact on social security - Some YP not accessing support e.g. free bus travel - Requirement for under 16s to travel with an adult and cost associated. - Can't force a partner to pay for all transport or food 	<p>SYP's Right to Food campaign priority has been calling for Government to expand key social security provisions, including on Free school meals. This policy call is supported by the research carried out throughout the campaign priority.</p> <p>The Scottish government have committed to continuing to expand free school meal provision to upper primary school in the 2023-24 PfG. While this is not as far as SYP had called for, it is progress considering there was reported consideration of scrapping the policy earlier in 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued campaigning on the right to food - Continued campaigning on free public transport for young people.
<p>Article 27 (adequate standard of living) Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting social needs amongst youth-work funding challenges - Funding for travel & accommodation being provided - Hidden costs of being an MSYP - Opportunity cost of being an MSYP 	<p>SYP has recently developed a Participation Framework and MSYP Development Framework that both embody the aims and outcomes as laid out in the National Youth Work Outcomes & Skills. This helps us ensure that MSYPs and all other young people participating in SYP's organisation are developing the personal skills and attributes associated with youth work. This has helped us deliver opportunities and experiences that help us meet our strategic aims as an organisation, and also deliver the social and personal needs of our MSYPs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued campaigning on Youth Work funding - National Youth Work outcomes as a basis for participation work - Funding MSYP expenses



<p>Article 28 right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve thi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balancing SYP & education - Mental health and stress impact on education - MSYPs resigning due to educational pressures 	<p>SYP this year has developed an Education Magazine that was created to tackle the problem of the education work being separate and bringing together all the individual projects that MSYPs have been working on over the two-year membership into one space. It has helped in making one of SYP's national Campaigns, Educational Attainment more coherent. It has allowed MSYPs to collate all their views on Education and highlight their education asks and wants. It also has allowed SYP to highlight the work of the individuals who have been working tirelessly on Education throughout their membership. It has involved multiple MSYPs and has allowed them to explain in their own words what was important about each project, and their own personal reflections. SYP has worked with a range of different stakeholders over the different education projects some being; SQA, the Scottish government and the United Nations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for MSYPs, including to take time away from SYP work. - Education campaign priority work and legacy work - Education strategic groups and projects
<p>Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity ask - Power imbalances in the education system - Lack of meaningful engagement by external 	<p>Educational attainment is another of SYPs campaigning priorities for the current term as voted for by MSYPs after consultation with their constituents. Education is also the focus of a number of SYP's projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the case for young people and Rights experts to be more involved in education work e.g. SEC - Staff support for young people on these forums to address power imbalances



<p>encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment</p>	<p>partners/desire for tick box solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power imbalances and issues young people have faced in these projects and groups - Challenges of a really broad topic that requires systemic change to improve - Education reform making things worse and us being associated with it 	<p>and policy work, including ongoing projects with Professor Louise Hayward, the SQA Learner Panel, and MSYPs sitting on groups on National Qualifications and the Scottish Education Council.</p> <p>In May 2022, two MSYPs were invited to join Professor Louise Hayward Independent Review Group (IRG), which reviewed Scottish Qualifications and Assessments. MSYPs were active participants at the monthly IRG meetings, sharing real life examples of their current educational experience, along with experiences of young people from across Scotland, and to share views on the overall recommendations for the Review.</p> <p>The review recommended a new model and approach called Scottish Diploma of Education (SDA).</p> <p>“It was a special experience because we worked hard to meaningfully blend views from up and down Scotland on qualifications and assessments to create recommendations centred on rights-based education” (MSYP quote)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing engagement between staff and officials on overcoming barriers - Campaigning for education reform - MSYP skills development and youth-work ethos - SYP & me
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		In October 2023 SYP published an education magazine summarising all of our work on the education campaign carried out in the meantime.	
Article 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups) Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of specific seldom heard groups - Misrepresentation of views of this specific group - Tyranny of the majority issues when determining SYP's priority work - Micro aggressions to young people from minority or indigenous groups if MSYPs & staff are not properly trained 	At SYP79, MSYPs passed a policy on recognising cultural and religious holidays and celebrations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy work on recognising cultural and religious holidays - Communications on cultural and religious holidays
Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity ask on MSYPs 	<p>SYP want the role of an MSYP to be a fun and rewarding opportunity, which includes within it the social activities associated with being an MSYP. For example, each SYP Sitting will have a social evening as part of the event, including the SYP Awards during our Autumn Sittings.</p> <p>All SYP events and particular Sittings include social space for MSYPs to enjoy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging summer and other breaks - Supporting MSYPs to balance their roles alongside other commitments and free time - Making space at SYP events for social activity



		their role. This has included games spaces, ceilidh's, discos, etc..	
<p>Article 33 (drug abuse) Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Misrepresenting views of young people on a complex topic like Drug-related harms 	<p>Treating drug-related harm as a public health issue was selected by the membership as a campaigning priority, based on a manifesto statement which had consulted with 10,000 young people.</p> <p>The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness of and advocate for a public health approach. To improve awareness and reduce stigma, there has been training for MSYPs by expert organisations, as well as a social media campaign and advocacy pack for International Overdose Awareness Day. In terms of advocacy, MSYPs participated in a focus group on youth service standards for Crew, arranged a meeting with Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland to discuss their public health approach, and are creating a briefing on SYP policies that support protective factors against young people developing problem drug use. This campaign is still currently active.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legacy work of the Drug-Related Harm campaign and continued policy work on Drug-Related Harm manifesto policies.
<p>Article 36 (other forms of exploitation) Governments must protect children from all</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tokenistic engagement with young people used to justify decisions 	<p>SYP's The Right Way project was developed to support and challenge decision-makers in Scotland to practice the meaningful participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued promotion of meaningful participation and The Right Way materials as a core part of SYP's



<p>other forms of exploitation, for example the exploitation of children for political activities, by the media or for medical research.</p>	<p>made by decision-makers in Scotland</p>	<p>of young people in their work. The development of robust, youth-led materials that outline what principles meaningful participation requires supports SYP to ‘call out’ when we see participation that is tokenistic or insufficient.</p> <p>The support to decision-makers also helps to ensure that participation is designed with good practice principles central and that decision are not taken using participation that, for example, hasn’t reached young people from seldom-heard groups.</p>	<p>participation and policy engagements.</p>
<p>article 40 (juvenile justice) A child accused or guilty of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. They have the right to legal assistance and a fair trial that takes account of their age. Governments must set a minimum age for children to be tried in a criminal court and manage a justice system that enables children who have been in conflict with the law to reintegrate into society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges reaching young people in the justice system with participation so misrepresenting views of those young people 	<p>In October 2023 SYP responded to the Scottish Parliament’s Call for Views on the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform Bill to ensure that young people’s views were fed into that process. As part of our response, SYP highlighted the need to protect young people as vulnerable victims and witnesses in the Justice system and highlighted our previous work and continued support for the Barnahaus model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued work on Barnahaus (Bairns Hoose) including supporting inclusion in the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform Bill.



<p>Article 42 (knowledge of rights) Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Need to re-establish UNCRC expertise within each membership	<p>As a rights based organisation, the UNCRC is a prominent part of all of SYP's work, and this includes promoting the Convention to partners and young people.</p> <p>SYP formed a key part of #TeamScotlandUN with Together: Scotland's Alliance for Children's Rights and Children's Parliament, who represented Scotland's children and young people in the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's State review into children and young people's rights in the UK and Jersey. Beau Johnston MSYP and Daisy Stewart Henderson MSYP led SYP's work on this.</p> <p>This included bringing rights issues to Scottish Government officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training programme to include focus on UNCRC for all MSYPs- SYP elections- Regular training for all staff on UNCRC- Upskilling each membership with a good knowledge of the UNCRC and specifically their article 12 rights
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