



The Children's Legal Centre news release

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Children's Legal Centre welcomes recommendations of Joint Committee on Universal Children's Day

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The Children's Legal Centre welcomes the recommendations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights in its report on Children's Rights, published today.

The Committee's report follows its national inquiry into children's rights, to which the Children's Legal Centre submitted evidence.

The publication of the report today marks the 20th anniversary of Universal Children's Day and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; the most widely-ratified human rights treaty in the world.

The Children's Legal Centre supports the Joint Committee's recommendation that the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be fully incorporated into UK domestic law. This would ensure that fundamental children's rights would be enforceable in domestic law, paving the way for the greater realisation of children's rights in the UK.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee also recommends that the UK government develop a "comprehensive plan" for implementing the

recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, published last year. The UN Committee, while noting some positive developments, was critical of the UK government's failure to implement many of the rights contained in the Convention fully, and made over 100 recommendations to the government.

It is of fundamental importance that the government develop a plan to implement the recommendations of the Committee and ensure that children's rights are protected in the UK.

Professor Carolyn Hamilton, Director of the Children's Legal Centre, said:

"One of the greatest barriers to the enforcement of fundamental children's rights in this country lies in the government's failure to include key children's rights provisions in domestic law. We have observed, through our work with vulnerable children both in the UK and abroad, the power of the Convention's provisions to transform the lives of children, including those children who are most vulnerable. The 20th anniversary of the Convention today serves as a reminder of the importance of children's rights in ensuring that children are able to reach their full potential and that their wellbeing is protected."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Children's Legal Centre

- The Children's Legal Centre is a unique, independent national charity concerned with law and policy affecting children and young people. The Children's Legal Centre has many years of experience in providing legal advice and representation to children, their carers and professionals throughout the UK.
- The Children's Legal Centre opened in 1981 and is staffed by lawyers and professionals with experience in child law. The Centre is funded by grants from Central Government and by charitable trusts.

The Children's Legal Centre provides the following services:

- Education Law and Advocacy Unit
- Children's Law department
- International Section (The International Section also hosts the Children and Armed Conflict Unit -a joint project with the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex)
- Publications

- Research and Consultancy
- Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children's Project
- **Young people's free phone number:** 0800 783 2187.
- **National Education Line** - Community Legal Services - 0845 345 4345.
- **Child Law Advice Line:** 08088 020 008 (advice for parents on legal issues) Lines open Mon-Fri 9.00 am - 5.00 pm. Please note that the Children's Legal Centre does not provide advice on criminal offences/juvenile justice.

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