

# Using children's rights in homelessness policy



Children's  
Rights Alliance  
for England

The past decade has seen a huge growth in numbers of children experiencing homelessness and being forced to live in temporary accommodation such as Bed and Breakfasts, often for long periods of time. Living in temporary accommodation can result in breaches of many key children's rights. This briefing explains how taking a children's rights approach to homeless policy could help challenge and tackle some of these issues. It is the fourth in a series of briefings and is part of a three year project funded by the Baring Foundation to build the capacity of the voluntary sector to use children's rights arguments in their policy and public affairs work.

## What are children's rights?

Children's human rights are the basic things that children need to thrive, be free and live in dignity - the right to an adequate standard of living, to be protected from all forms of violence, an education, to play, be healthy, and be cared for. Children's rights should act as a safety net – meaning children always receive at least the minimum standard of treatment whatever the changing economic or political climate. Research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has found that human rights and anti-poverty work are rarely integrated into UK public policy.<sup>1</sup> This is a missed opportunity.

## What is the CRC?

Children's rights are set out in the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** – an international treaty (agreement) which nearly every country in the world has signed up to. The UK Government ratified the CRC in 1991 which means it and all areas of government and the state (including local government, schools and health services) must do all they can to uphold these rights.

Roughly every five years, a group of 18 independent experts from the UN – **the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** (CRC Committee) - scrutinise all States Parties (countries that have ratified the CRC) on how

well they are respecting children's rights and issues its final recommendations (**Concluding Observations**). The UK was last examined in 2016.<sup>2</sup>

Each right is set out in the 54 **articles** of the CRC. It also has four guiding principles (**General Principles**) which are rights in themselves but also the framework through which all the rights in the CRC should be interpreted. They are: non-discrimination (article 2); the best interests of the child (article 3); survival and development (article 6); and respect for the views of the child (article 12).

**General Comments** published by the UN Committee provide a more detailed interpretation of an article or issue relating to the CRC, and provide guidance on the actions required by governments to ensure its implementation.

## Children have their own rights because:

- They are separate and unique to adults
- They need special protection because of their vulnerability and developing maturity
- They have special developmental needs and evolving capacities
- They are sometimes less articulate than adults
- They are less likely to be taken seriously, and have less power

## What is a children's rights approach?

- It is a human rights based approach specifically for children
- Children's best interests are always central to the process
- The child's voice is at the centre
- Children's views are taken into account and given due weight; a group that often have no voice
- It takes a holistic approach which looks at the whole child, e.g. not just their status as a homeless child
- It uses a set of binding international standards for all children and enables the state to be held to account on how it treats children, including by children themselves

## What are the benefits of taking a children's rights approach to policy making?

Our research with children's and human rights policy experts revealed multiple benefits of a children's rights approach to policy making.<sup>3</sup>

### A framework for applying human rights

As the CRC has not been fully incorporated into our domestic legislation, broader human rights frameworks were perceived as being very useful as the courts use the CRC to interpret the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), incorporated through the Human Rights Act 1998, in cases concerning children (see below for more information). The duty on public authorities to comply with the ECHR has also led to positive changes to children's rights protection without the need to go to court.<sup>4</sup> Human rights were also found to be useful in creating a common language. Research on poverty and human rights by JRF backs this up: *'the full package of human rights provides a lens through which poverty is seen as multi-dimensional, encompassing not only a low income, but also other forms of deprivation and loss of dignity.'*<sup>5</sup>

### An internationally accountable standard

The CRC was seen as a uniquely powerful tool in advancing children's rights. It is a common global framework which provides a basis for international accountability. It sets out a binding, universal minimum standard for how children should be protected and treated. Its status as an international convention, which all but two countries across the world are signed up to, was seen as a clear strength.

### A framework specifically for children

Unlike the CRC, the ECHR and other human rights treaties were not developed with children specifically in mind. As a result they do not contain a number of key principles and protections which are of crucial importance for children. For example there is no best interest or welfare standards for children in the ECHR (as is included in article 3 of the CRC) and no requirements for children's views to be taken into account when decisions affecting them are made. The inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights in the CRC, also evidenced in research, was felt to be particularly relevant for children.<sup>6</sup> Experts outlined the importance of the CRC as *'a whole continuum of rights for children'* that looks at the child holistically along their developmental journey to adulthood.

### An adaptable and evolving tool

Interviewees highlighted the benefits of the evolving and changing nature of the CRC itself as it is continually interpreted through General Comments, the COs and jurisprudence from Optional Protocol 3 (OP3). Although the UK hasn't ratified OP3, which establishes a complaints mechanism for individuals to the CRC Committee regarding a breach of children's rights, jurisprudence from the CRC Committee from such cases are a hugely powerful tool in interpreting child rights standards. This makes it constantly adaptable and relevant for lobbying purposes.

## How are children's human rights relevant to housing?

### Rights under the CRC

The state of a child's home – in terms of how fit it is for habitation, its size, stability and location – affects a child's physical and mental health, education, relationships and safety.<sup>7</sup>

Adequate housing is a human right recognised under international law (including in Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and has been enshrined in major international human rights treaties including the CRC.

#### Article 2, CRC

The CRC states that children should be protected from all forms of discrimination. There should not be inequalities in basic living standards. This includes discrimination on the basis of their (or their parents') status or property.

#### Article 4, CRC

Public bodies should use the maximum available resources to ensure that all children have an adequate standard of living.

#### Article 26, CRC

Children have a right to receive assistance through social benefits, depending on the circumstances of their families.

#### Article 27, CRC

The State should ensure that every child has a standard of living which is adequate to allow them to develop fully - physically, mentally, spiritually, morally and socially. Whilst recognising the responsibilities that parents have, governments must ensure that they provide assistance to families to ensure that children's essential needs are met - in particular, nutrition, clothing and housing.

### Relevant CRC Concluding Observations (2016)

When the UK was last examined by the CRC Committee in 2016, it was concerned by the increase in the number of homeless households with children, as well as the number of homeless families, staying in temporary accommodation and the impact of welfare reforms on children. It recommended the Government:

**71 (d)** Where necessary, revise social security reforms in order to fully respect the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, taking into account the different impacts of the reform on different groups of children, particularly those in vulnerable situations.

**71 (e)** Strictly implement the legal prohibition of prolonged placement of children in temporary accommodation by public authorities.

**71 (f)** Take necessary measures to reduce homelessness and to progressively guarantee all children stable access to adequate housing that provides physical safety, adequate space, protection against the threats to health and structural hazards, including cold, damp, heat and pollution, and accessibility for children with disabilities.<sup>8</sup>

### Rights under ICESCR

The UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which the UK has signed and ratified is the core treaty protecting economic human rights and equally applies to children as it does adults. However, like the CRC, it has not been directly incorporated into our national laws. Individuals, therefore, cannot ask a domestic court to adjudicate a claim if there is a breach of ICESCR rights.<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, like the CRC its international obligations are binding. The UK was last examined by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR Committee) in 2016.

#### Article 11 (1), ICESCR

This protects the right to housing, as part of a broader right to an adequate standard of living. Everyone has the right to 'an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate... housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.'

Two General Comments (4 and 7) by the Committee have clarified the scope and meaning of this - the right to housing should not be interpreted in a narrow or restrictive sense, but should be seen as the right to live somewhere in '*security, peace and dignity*'. It should also be ensured to everyone irrespective of income or access to economic resources.

The CESCR Committee<sup>10</sup> has identified the following as essential components of adequate housing:

- legal security of tenure
- availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure
- affordability
- habitability
- accessibility
- location
- cultural adequacy

Regardless of their financial situation, States must take certain steps immediately to guarantee the right. The CESCR Committee, whilst acknowledging that economic crises may impact on the right to adequate housing, has stressed that '*the obligations under the ICESCR continue to apply and are perhaps even more pertinent during times of economic contraction*' and pointed out it would be inconsistent with obligations under the ICESCR if living and housing conditions decline because of policy and legislative decisions taken by States Parties.<sup>11</sup>

### Relevant ICESCR Concluding Observations (2016)

The CESCR Committee examined the UK in 2016 and was concerned about the significant rise in homelessness affecting families and the adverse impact that social security reforms and reductions in financial support to local authorities have had on the right to adequate housing. It recommended the UK Government:

**52.** Allocate appropriate funds to local authorities, to reduce the exceptionally high levels of homelessness to ensure adequate provision of reception facilities, including emergency shelters and hostels.<sup>12</sup>

## Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 has relevance for homelessness in many ways. HRA cases involving children draw on the CRC to interpret articles in the HRA. It also incorporates the ECHR and brings it into our domestic law. While the ECHR does not contain a right to housing per se, various articles of the Convention and its protocols may provide some protection for aspects of the right to housing.

### Article 8 and article 3, ECHR/HRA

Children's human right to respect for their home, private and family life is protected by article 8 of the ECHR and HRA (as incorporated). Article 8 focuses on respect for a current home. As judgments from the courts have emphasised, article 8(1) does not contain an express right to a home or to help getting one that someone does not already have. But the Act may be able to help provide a remedy where the authorities do not provide a home for a child or person who needs one and this causes suffering that is so severe that it engages article 3 of the ECHR and HRA (as incorporated), the right to protection from inhuman or degrading treatment. For example, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has observed that, although article 8 does not guarantee the right to have housing problems solved by the authorities, a refusal to provide assistance to an individual suffering from a severe disease might in certain circumstances raise a case under article 8.<sup>13</sup>

## Case Example

### Upholding the right to adequate housing<sup>14</sup>

Mrs Bernard was severely disabled following a stroke and lived with her husband, who was her carer, and their six children in crowded, temporary accommodation. The High Court considered that they lived in deplorable conditions and held that the local authority had failed to discharge their legal duties to place the family in suitable accommodation. The Court considered that, on balance, the conditions in which they were forced to live were not sufficiently severe to constitute a breach of article 3 but made it virtually impossible for them to have any meaningful private or family life and gave rise to a breach of article 8.

## Barriers to using children's rights approaches

Our research also explored the barriers to using a children's right approach amongst decision makers e.g. government officials and parliamentarians, and those who affect how decision makers operate e.g. the media, and the public. We also explored barriers amongst staff in participants' own organisations.

### Too technical and lack of understanding

The most common complaint was that the CRC itself is too legalistic and technical. The language of children's rights was felt to be unnecessarily complicated which put people off using it in their policy work. They felt that using a human rights or children's rights approach made sense in legal case work or strategic litigation but did not necessarily add value in policy or advocacy work and could over complicate issues and be detrimental to an organisation's policy objectives. There was also a general lack of understanding of the CRC, its surrounding procedures and a children's rights approach in general amongst the public, decision makers and those in the children's sector.

### Toxic anti-human rights and international rhetoric

The biggest barrier to taking a children's rights or human rights approach was seen to be the pervasive anti-human rights agenda and narrative, common amongst some politicians and media. This is also backed up by external research.<sup>15</sup> Interviewees told us that their organisations were reluctant to use human rights arguments as this risked shutting doors with the current Government and some media organisations.

The toxic anti-human rights rhetoric is also being intensified by Brexit, which interviewees felt had further exacerbated anti-international/European feeling including about the ECHR and, by association, the CRC. Interviewees outlined that, perpetuated by the press, human rights are only perceived as unconditional *'freebies for undeserving people'* that you do not have to earn and are not something for everyone.

### Questioning of the added value of rights in the homelessness sector

Because of such issues, people questioned the need to take a rights based approach in policy and what value it added: *'Why do you need to insert rights into a communication? Why do you need to say 'X has a right to housing' when you could just say 'X needs housing'?'*

In relation to using children's and human rights arguments about poverty and homelessness issues, interviewees spoke about overcoming a perception that human rights are only civil and political, not economic, social, and cultural and therefore that poverty is not a human rights issue. This is something that has also been documented by the JRF.<sup>16</sup> People in the homeless sectors told us that they found relying on the Children Act 1989 and using the language of child protection, children's needs and welfare more effective than using human or children's rights language.

Such an approach was felt to have encouraged a view that rights based arguments are only used about certain groups seen as having less rights and therefore only commonly used by certain sectors e.g. about LGBTQ children. However interviewees were concerned that this perpetuates the myths spread by the press that human rights and children's right are only for certain groups of "undeserving people" (as mentioned above) rather than that they are unconditional and for everyone.

### CRC not incorporated into domestic legislation

The fact that the CRC is not incorporated into UK law and England also does not have a public sector statutory duty to have due regard to the CRC, as in Scotland and Wales, was seen as a key barrier to using the CRC as a lobbying tool.<sup>17</sup> Because the CRC is not binding in domestic law, organisations commented that they were unclear how to make effective use of it in their lobbying.

## Children's rights duties for public bodies

### Public authorities and central Government

Public authorities, including central government departments, are bound by the CRC and the ICSECR under international law, and should comply with it in making decisions and carrying out their functions.

Although the protections in the CRC are not part of UK law, in December 2010 the Government made a commitment to give "due regard" to the CRC when making new policy or legislation.<sup>18</sup> They have since reiterated this commitment;<sup>19</sup> however there is no mechanism to do this through a mandatory system of Children's Rights Impact Assessments (CRIAs) of policies or legislation and evidence shows this is not happening in any systemic way.<sup>20</sup>

### Local authorities

Local authorities play a crucial role in realising children's rights because of the frontline services, including housing, they provide.

An example of the obligation on local authorities to uphold children's rights is found in the 2013 *Statutory Guidance to all local Directors of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services*.<sup>21</sup> This requires them to:

- have regard to the general principles of the CRC;
- ensure that children are involved in the development and delivery of local services;
- think about the CRC when making sure they do not discriminate, and keep a paper trail to show they have done so.

### Courts

At the moment, as noted above, children cannot bring cases under the CRC or the ICESCR in the UK courts as these are viewed as international instruments and have not been "incorporated" into UK domestic law.

However, courts in the UK should still take the provisions of these international standards into account when deciding whether public authorities have complied with their obligations under domestic legislation (such as the Housing Act, the Human Rights Act or secondary legislation about the provision of suitable temporary accommodation).

### Case example

#### Children's economic rights and 'best interests' breached by benefit cap<sup>22</sup>

In March 2015 the UK's Supreme Court considered whether the benefit cap was in breach of children's rights. The majority of the Supreme Court found that the cap was not compatible with the Government's obligation under the CRC to treat the best interests of children as a primary consideration. Lady Hale said *'it cannot possibly be in the best interests of the children affected by the cap to deprive them of the means to provide them with adequate food, clothing, warmth and housing, the basic necessities of life.'* The judges called for the Government to address the implications of the finding that the scheme breaches the CRC in its review of the benefit cap.

### The Human Rights Act and public officials

The Act places a legal obligation on all public bodies (including local authorities and housing departments) and other bodies carrying out public functions (which could include housing associations) to respect and protect the rights contained in the ECHR. This means public officials need to be thinking about human rights in their day-to-day decisions. Where public officials fail to respect and protect our rights, children and their families can take action in their local courts. The HRA underpins all other laws, policy, guidance etc which means all other laws, regulations etc should all be compatible with the rights in the HRA. As mentioned above, the CRC is used to interpret the HRA in the Courts.

### How are children's rights to housing being breached by temporary accommodation?

#### Anmol's story

*"I learnt how hard growing up without a real home can be. Between the age of 7 and 15, I moved house 15 times into different temporary accommodations. My Mum, a single parent, and I stayed in a B&B for about two months, it was dreadful.*

*We moved all our belongings into a tiny room. It was freezing cold, cramped and scary and everything was dirty. We moved there in winter, I remember it was snowing outside. The heating was expensive and barely worked. Someone came to check our room weekly and my mum used to explain that we were very cold. They used to write it down. But nothing ever happened. We couldn't really cook proper meals because to use things like the cooker we had to pay extra for gas and electricity and we didn't have enough money. I worried about my mum all the time because living like that was so stressful for her.*

*One of my worst memories was 'celebrating' my 14th birthday there. Although my mum tried so hard to make it special it wasn't. It wasn't homely and I felt too ashamed to bring my friends back to cut my cake. I wasn't given any help or advice, I wasn't able to do homework or study and it made my education much more stressful. This all took its toll and impacted on my mental health and left me with anxiety, I felt I lost all hope in my future.*

*When I was 16 we finally got a stable place to live and things for me are better now. My family have a house in a lovely neighbourhood, my little sister is in reception and I am in University living in student halls! My family are secure; it's like a different life."*

Anmol is a member of CRAE's See it, Say it, Change it! Steering group, a group of 26 young people aged 8 to 20 campaigning against the use of temporary accommodation.

### Examples of how Anmol's rights under the CRC were potentially breached

- *right to an adequate standard of living (article 27)* - Anmol's living conditions impacted on her right to have an adequate standard of living to allow her to develop fully – physically, mentally and socially
- *right to health (article 24)* - Anmol's family's inability to afford to cook proper meals impacted on her right to nutritious food so that she could stay healthy
- *right to education (article 28)* – Anmol's inability to do her homework impacted on her educational development

### Examples of how Anmol's rights under article 11 of the ICESCR were potentially breached:

- *lengthy wait* to provide assistance to the family
- prolonged use of bed and breakfast (beyond the legal limit of six weeks) and temporary accommodation with *limited security of tenure*
- inability to use essential kitchen and bathroom facilities and cramped accommodation raises questions about *habitability and suitability of facilities*

### Framing housing as a children's rights issue

Given the barriers mentioned above to using children's rights arguments and approaches in homelessness policy, our research and that of others has found that the use of strategic communications can be an effective way of reframing current narratives and debates with the public, the media and decision makers and to achieve policy change. This can apply to both debates around human rights and housing.

Research by Equally Ours on using strategic communications and human rights found that although *'the media does influence people's attitudes to human rights, but it is out of step – and far more negative – than public opinion on the issue.'*<sup>23</sup> They

recommend several tactics to increase support for human rights based arguments such as highlighting the values of human rights like dignity and freedom. Talking about the tradition and heritage of human rights was also found to increase positivity among those who are uninterested in, or initially opposed to, rights. Finally, they recommend using inclusive and unifying language that evokes emotions.

Additional research by the Frameworks Institute has found that current media narratives and public perceptions of poverty may impact negatively when you are trying to influence policy change around homelessness. *'At its core, people think this is a story about individuals – not society – and this is echoed and amplified through media portrayals of "benefit scroungers" or "shirkers".'*<sup>24</sup>

The Frameworks Institute state that: *'The first tip is to draw people away from specific examples, and on to context. ... individual stories can be effective if embedded in larger narratives that put the individual in a social context, but they can also cause people to think about answers at an individual level such as the need for beds in shelters and hot meals rather than increased funding for council housing.'*<sup>25</sup> Changing policy and legislation is about challenging these bigger structural or systematic factors.

They also highlight that research on housing messages has shown *'problematic associations with the terms housing and affordable housing that limit how people think about the importance of affordable, quality, and healthy housing; the ways in which housing is connected to other social issues; and, most importantly, the options for change.'* They acknowledge it isn't possible to completely avoid these terms, but advise using language that broadens the idea of housing to talk about how much a home means to individuals, families and communities.<sup>26</sup> Our research found that policy messaging on homelessness should integrate what the impact poor housing and homelessness has had on children's basic needs and rights to develop.

## How to take a children's rights approach to homeless policy

1. Take time to look at the principles of a children's rights approach in this briefing to ensure your public affairs and policy strategy aligns with this.
2. Get involved in the CRC reporting process to ensure strong Concluding Observations on homelessness.
3. Use Concluding Observations, General Comments and articles from the CRC and ICSECR to back up arguments in your briefings, reports and campaign materials to add weight to your arguments. Feel free to use the material from this briefing in your own.
4. Mix public facing, more emotionally targeted fundraising on homelessness with behind the scenes more technical advocacy using children's rights. But be tactical and layer/tailor children's rights language. Take on the right conversations in the right arena.
5. Take people across your organisation (media, fundraising, senior management) on a journey to increase their confidence in using children's rights arguments. It takes time.
6. Use insights from strategic communications and framing to change the narrative and attitudes amongst the decision makers, public and press around homelessness and children's rights. Decision makers and parliamentarians are very sensitive to public opinions.
7. When working with parliamentarians, use clear case studies that highlight how homelessness and housing issues are breaching children's rights in their local constituency in an evocative manner. Highlight how their basic needs and rights are being violated and not respected. See Anmol's case study for an example of how to do this.
8. Consult with children on any policy development you undertake, ensure that the voice of children is reflected in your work and work with children in organisational campaigns as partners to achieve change.
9. Use examples of where the CRC has been used to challenge decisions in the courts on unacceptable housing and homelessness to reinforce arguments. The courts are a good example of where the CRC has clear implications.
10. Consider when strategic litigation in the courts might be appropriate as part of your lobbying strategy and be helpful in achieving your goal.

## Endnotes

1. Donald, A. and Mottershaw, E. (2009) *How other countries have used human rights to tackle poverty and how this could be applied in the UK* Joseph Rowntree Foundation
2. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2016) *Concluding Observations on the fifth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
3. We interviewed 16 people to explore the barriers and solutions to using a children's rights approach to policy. These people were mixture of children's and human rights policy and legal experts from across the UK and Europe, policy experts from large children's charities and the homelessness and mental health sectors. We then tested our findings at a roundtable event with 22 individuals from the same sectors, most of whom had not been interviewed as well. See: Williams, N. (2017) *Barriers and Solutions to Using Children's Rights Approaches in Policy CRAE*
4. For example it has enabled a disabled girl to access transport to get to school and prevented a new born baby and her mum from being made homeless. BIHR (2014) *The Human Rights Act: Changing Lives (2nd edition)*
5. Donald, A. and Mottershaw, E. (2009) Op. Cit.
6. Fortin, J. (2005) *Children's Rights and the Developing Law, Second Edition* Cambridge University Press
7. UNHCR and UN Habitat (2014) *The Right to Adequate Housing; Factsheet 21 (Rev 1)*
8. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2016) Op. Cit.
9. The UK has not signed the Optional Protocol to ICESCR which establishes a complaints mechanism for individuals to the UN Committee regarding a breach of their rights.
10. CESCR Committee (Sixth Session 1991) *General Comment No. 4: The right to adequate housing (art. 11 (1) of the Covenant)* and (Sixteenth Session 1997) *General comment No. 7: The right to adequate housing (art. 11 (1) of the Covenant): Forced evictions*
11. CESCR Committee (Sixth Session 1991) *General Comment No. 4: The right to adequate housing (art. 11 (1) of the Covenant)*
12. CESCR Committee (2016) *Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
13. Marzari v Italy [4th May 1999] 36448/97 ECHR
14. Bernard v London Borough of Enfield [2002] EWHC 2282 (Admin)
15. Equally Ours (2013) *Telling the Story of Everyone's Rights Everyday* Equality and Diversity Forum
16. Donald, A. and Mottershaw, E. (2009) Op. Cit.
17. The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 requires Welsh Ministers to have "due regard" to the UNCRC when exercising any of their functions, and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Scottish Ministers to give due consideration to ways in which the UNCRC can be better implemented in Scotland.
18. Sarah Teather (Minister of State, Department for Education) 6 December 2010 *WMS: Children's Commissioner Review C7WS*
19. Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, Children and Social Work Bill 2017, 12th January 2017, HC 220
20. King, L. (2016) *Briefing 2 - The General Measures and General Principles of the CRC, State of Children's Rights in England 2016 CRAE*
21. Department for Education (2013) *Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services* The Government have committed to updating this guidance: Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, Children and Social Work Bill 2017, 12th January 2017, HC 220
22. R (on the application of SG and others (previously JS and others)) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions [2015] UKSC 16
23. Equally Ours (2013) Op. Cit.
24. Volmert, A., Gerstein Pineau, M., Kendall-Taylor, N. (2016) *Talking about Poverty: How Experts and the Public Understand Poverty in the UK* Frameworks Institute
25. Kendall-Taylor, N. (29 May 2017) 'Getting over the right message about the link between poverty and housing is vital' *The Guardian*
26. Manuel, T. and Kendall-Taylor, N. (2016) 'You don't have to live here' *Why Housing Messages Are Backfiring and 10 Things We Can Do About It* Enterprise and Frameworks Institute

## About CRAE

The Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) works with 150 organisational and individual members to promote children's rights, making us one of the biggest children's rights coalitions in the world.

We believe that human rights are a powerful tool in making life better for children. We fight for children's rights by listening to what they say, carrying out research to understand what children are going through and using the law to challenge those who violate children's rights. We campaign for the people in power to change things for children. And we empower children and those who care about children to push for the changes that they want to see.

## Find out more

Other briefings in this series:

'Barriers and Solutions to Using Children's Rights Approaches in Policy' <http://crae.org.uk/media/123572/Barriers-and-solutions-to-using-childrens-rights-in-policy-E.pdf>

'Summary of the 2016 Concluding Observations on the General Measures of Implementation' <http://www.crae.org.uk/media/121610/crae-cos-gmi-briefing-2017.pdf>

'Summary of the 2016 Concluding Observations' <http://www.crae.org.uk/media/118248/CRAE-Briefing-UN-Committee-Rights-of-the-Child-Concluding-Observations-2016.pdf>

## Further reading

'The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations 2016' [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGBR%2fCO%2f5&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGBR%2fCO%2f5&Lang=en)

'The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Concluding Observations 2016' [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fGBR%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fGBR%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en)

'State of Children's Rights in England' CRAE <http://www.crae.org.uk/our-work/monitoring-compliance-with-childrens-rights/state-of-childrens-rights-in-england/>

'Protecting the Right to Housing in England: A Context of Crisis' (2015) Dr Jessie Hohmann, Just Fair [http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8a2436\\_3282fdf2752d4e2cad3ddfb6ca58f2be.pdf](http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8a2436_3282fdf2752d4e2cad3ddfb6ca58f2be.pdf)

Details of human rights cases and links to judgments can be found from Rightsinfo <http://rightsinfo.org>



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