

GETTING INVOLVED: YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A HUMAN RIGHT TO BE LISTENED TO AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY, EVEN WHEN YOU ARE UNDER 18?



In our society children don't have as much social and political power as adults, because you don't have the right to vote until you turn 18. But Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) says that all children have the human right to have their opinions heard and taken seriously.

The UNCRC also makes it clear that, even when you're under 18, all human rights apply to you as much as they do to adults.

Australia has signed and ratified the UNCRC which means that our federal, state and territory governments have a legal duty to ensure that all children in Australia enjoy the right to participate.

This means that you have a legal right to get involved and have your voice heard on the issues that matter to you.

You should:

- be given the information you need to make good decisions.
- be given the opportunity to freely express your views and have your opinions taken seriously when people make decisions about things that involve you.
- not have your views dismissed out of hand, just because you're not 18 yet.

So, if something impacts you – like your ability to get a good education or to enjoy your right not to be discriminated against – then you have the right to participate in government decision making about laws and policies that affect your rights.

Article 15 of the CRC also says you also have the right to meet with other young people and join groups and organisations as long as this doesn't stop other people from enjoying their rights.

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE CALL FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS ACT FOR NEW SOUTH WALES



The campaign for a Human Rights Act for NSW (**#hra4nsw**) is calling on the New South Wales Government to pass a law that protects everyone's basic rights and freedoms, including the special human rights belonging to children and young people under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We want children and young people to join the conversation about protecting and promoting human rights in NSW. **We want you to be heard and to have your views taken seriously.**

We have lots of ways to help you participate. You can head to www.humanrightsfornewsw.org and:

1. Sign the petition for a #hra4nsw
2. Use our super-fast and easy form to send an email to your local NSW member of parliament telling them why it's important to you that they take action to support a #hra4nsw.
3. Get in touch with us by email: humanrightsactfornewsw@gmail.com Please ask us any questions you have and tell us your views. We promise we will listen and take them seriously.

We would also love to hear from you if you want to take action in your local community to raise awareness of how a Human Rights Act will benefit children and young people.

You can also follow us and join in the conversation on social media



@hra4nsw



@HumanRights4NSW



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

**CENTRE FOR LAW
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Thank you for attending the Youth Forum on the Right to Education, on 1 November 2022 at the University of Newcastle. This event was proudly hosted by the Centre for Law and Social Justice, in association with the Human Rights Act for NSW Alliance.