

Children's rights investigation service

The Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) offers a children's rights investigation service to give children and young people more influence, and to build human rights knowledge and capacity among a wide range of organisations in England.

Following lobbying by CRAE, local Children's Trust Boards must now have regard to the Convention on the Rights of the Child when preparing, reviewing or revising their plan for local children's services.¹

- Need to find out whether children and young people using your services, or living in your area, feel their rights are respected?
- Want to know how to raise awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Act among children and young people?
- Looking for materials for children and adults on the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- Want to put children and young people's ideas into practice?
- Unsure about the human rights obligations of your organisation and the implications of recent legal judgments?

If the answer to any of the above is “yes”, get in touch with us to see how we might help your organisation meet its human rights obligations.

CRAE's multi-disciplinary team includes individuals with considerable experience of recruiting, training and supporting children and young people to conduct their own consultations. Our “Get ready” programme supported children and young people to undertake a national children's rights investigation and submit their own report to the United Nations. Professor Kamel Filali, Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, described this work as a model for other European countries to follow.

Children's Rights Alliance
for England

¹ Regulation 5(1) of The Children's Trust Board (Children and Young People's Plan) (England) Regulations 2010, which came into force on 1 April 2010.

More examples:

The **Department for Children, Schools and Families** commissioned CRAE to find out how well children and young people believe their rights are respected in England. With the National Children's Bureau and UNICEF we designed an online children's rights survey and managed 23 focus groups across the country. The project was undertaken within 9 months and the comprehensive report (including a literature review of 61 studies into children's views and experiences) was part of the UK Government's official submission to the UN. A children's summary was also produced.

The **Council of Europe** contracted CRAE to help it research children and young people's experiences of legal systems during the development of its child friendly justice guidelines. We interviewed children in custody, as well as those with parents and siblings in prison.

The **BBC** commissioned CRAE to translate its Charter Review document so children and young people could engage in its public consultation. We recommended questions the BBC could use to elicit the views of under-18s. These were used in the official consultation.

The Government's **Women and Equality Unit** invited CRAE to bring together children and young people to discuss the merger of the three equality Commissions² before the legislation was introduced into Parliament. Following campaigning by CRAE, children and young people were included in the remit of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The **NGO³ Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child**, based in Geneva, asked CRAE to investigate the experiences of children's rights organisations and children and young people of reporting to the UN. We were commissioned to write three sets of guidelines to increase children and young people's effective participation in the international children's rights reporting process – one set of guidelines for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, another for NGOs and a third set for children and young people.

Our daily rates range from below £400 to £700⁴, depending on the nature of the service required. If you would like to discuss how CRAE could assist your organisation, please send an introductory email setting out your needs and any deadlines to: investigate@crae.org.uk

CRAE is a charity (1005135) and a company limited by guarantee (England and Wales 2652127). Registered office 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF. VAT number 890914985.
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² Commission for Racial Equality, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Disability Rights Commission.

³ Non-governmental organisation.

⁴ All services are subject to VAT charge. The prices quoted are 2010/11 rates and may be subject to change.