

Rights of the Child UK (Rock)

A coalition working for the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into UK law

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Aims

1. To achieve the active recognition and realisation of children's rights in the UK through the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into UK law.
2. To identify and act upon opportunities for the incorporation of the UNCRC into UK law. To develop a detailed position as to how incorporation may be achieved and a strategy to achieve it, taking into account international developments.
3. To work together to maximise the opportunities to strengthen children's rights that are presented by proposals from the UK Government, the devolved administrations and opposition parties for a British (or UK) Bill of Rights and Responsibilities or similar instrument, and to guard against any threats to children's rights that are posed by the proposals.

Membership

4. Coalition members may include any organisations and individuals with relevant expertise or sufficient interest who subscribe to the above aims.

Activities

5. The coalition will recommend and undertake joint advocacy towards the above aims, including supporting children's self advocacy.
6. Nothing within this mandate restricts the freedom of any coalition member from conducting its own advocacy.
7. The coalition will seek to collaborate with other interest groups.

8. The coalition may share, gather and disseminate information and invite others to share information.

Working methods

9. The coalition will hold quarterly open meetings, and will aim to rotate the location of those meetings in order to enable coalition members throughout the United Kingdom to participate.¹
10. Work outside the quarterly meetings will be carried out principally through email communication and through smaller working meetings which will report back to coalition members, as agreed by the coalition.
11. Activities may be undertaken directly by the coalition or some individual members. When the work is delegated to a member, or a group of members, these will report back to others in the coalition.
12. The coalition will agree upon a work programme including specific, measurable and time-bound targets, in order to maximise the effectiveness of the coalition. The work programme will be reviewed at least every six months and otherwise as and when considered necessary by the coalition.
13. The coalition will elect a chair annually to support and co-ordinate the work of the coalition. The chair will have responsibility for:
 - (a) Setting the agenda, convening and chairing meetings, in consensus with members.
 - (b) Keeping the membership list up-to-date.
 - (c) Keeping and running a mailing list.
 - (d) Coordinating the completion of any work agreed by the coalition.
 - (e) Facilitating communication between members.

¹ The coalition is open to members from Northern Ireland, although it is recognised that discussions of incorporation of children's rights into NI law are much further advanced as a result of the proposals for a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights.

- (f) Submitting an annual report of activities and facilitating a review to see what went well and ensure the coalition acts on learning in the future.

14. Responsibility for taking minutes of meetings will be rotated among coalition members.

Periodic review and coalition life-span

15. These terms of reference will be reviewed at least every six months and otherwise as and when considered necessary by the coalition.

16. The coalition is expected to have an initial life-span of five years, concluding with the 2014 examination of the UK by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.