



The European Union's Plan for Children's Rights





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The European Union (EU for short) is a group of 27 countries that work together.



Children's rights are promises that the EU and governments made so children can have a good life.

Here are some examples of **children's rights**



to be safe



to play



to learn



to have a say

How will the EU put **children's rights** in practice?

The EU will collect information and teach people about children's rights.



Governments and others will learn from each other how best to put children's rights into practice.



The EU will spend money on things that are needed for children to enjoy their rights, such as training for adults who work with children.



Did you know?

The biggest set of children's rights promises is called the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**.





What are the **top 6 things** in the plan?

1



Children's participation

Everyone will understand that children have a right to a say and put it into practice.

2



Included in society

Children will be able to get good education and healthcare and families will have enough money to meet children's needs.

3



Safe from harm

Children will be kept safe from violence and children who are harmed will get the help they need.

4



Child-friendly justice

The police, lawyers and judges will treat children fairly, listen to them and meet their needs.

5



Digital world

All children will be able to get access to and stay safe in the digital world.

6



Helping children across the world

All children in the world will enjoy their rights, even when there is war, famine or disease.

Did you know?

When making the plan the EU talked to lots of people, including 10,000 children.



1



Children's participation

What will the EU do?

Why was this chosen?

- Some people do not agree that children have a right to have a say in decisions.
- Others think it is too difficult or would cost too much money.

TO DO

Prepare a plan to promote children's and young people's participation.

Put laws and policies in child-friendly language.

Teach others how to use child-friendly language.

Consult with children when developing EU policies.



'If not us, then who?'

Boy, 16



What will the EU do?

Why was this chosen?

- Many children live in families that do not have enough money to meet their needs.
- More needs to be done to make sure that all children can have good health care.
- Many children do not get a good education and cannot take part in after-school activities.



TO DO

Make sure families have enough money to meet children's needs.

Make sure there is good healthcare for children.

Meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Make sure children are able to eat healthily.

Make sure all children get a good education.



Being included in society means that everyone is included (no matter how much money they have or what their background is).



What will the EU do?

Why was this chosen?

- One in two children across the world is likely to suffer some form of violence each year.
- There is a worry that violence against children has increased during COVID-19.

TO DO

Make sure that everyone works together to keep children safe.

Train adults who work to protect children.

Share information on the best ways to protect children.

Make stronger laws on violence against children.

Violence includes neglect, physical and mental harm, sexual abuse and exploitation (this means an adult taking advantage and using a child to make money), and bullying.



What will the EU do?

Why was this chosen?

- Many children do not feel safe or are not treated equally when taking part in justice systems.
- Children often do not have the information they need to understand what is happening.
- Child victims often do not report crimes.
- Too many children are kept in detention.

TO DO

Have children's rights training for the police, lawyers and judges.

Make laws that support children in the justice system and put them into practice.

Find ways that children can stay in the community and not go to detention centres.

Have everyone accept a decision by one EU country that someone is the parent of a child.



The justice system can include the police and courts. Children might be victims, witnesses or accused of a crime. They might also be involved if decisions are being made about their education or who they will live with.



What will the EU do?

Why was this chosen?

- Not all children have access to the web or devices such as laptops, smartphones and tablets.
- Children are not always safe online. They can be bullied or see violent or sexual content or advertisements for things that are harmful to them (such as alcohol).

A blue clipboard with a white ring at the top. A yellow oval with a black border contains the text 'TO DO' in black capital letters. The clipboard is attached to a large purple frame that contains a list of six items, each followed by a horizontal line. A large purple checkmark is located at the bottom right of the frame.

TO DO

Develop a new plan for a 'Better internet for children'.

Make sure children with disabilities can benefit from digital technology.

Make laws that require businesses to check for and report online sexual abuse.

Make sure all children have access to digital tools and an internet connection.

Teach children, parents and schools about healthy online activity.

Make sure that information about children is protected online.

The digital world includes access to the internet and devices such as computers, smartphones and Wi-Fi.



What will the EU do?

Why was this chosen?

- Too many children do not have access to good healthcare, food, safe water or education.
- Many are affected by wars and natural disasters.
- COVID-19 and the impact of climate change have made things worse for many children.

TO DO

Encourage governments everywhere to keep children's rights promises.

Spend money and take action to protect children from violence.

Prepare an action plan to promote children's and young people's participation.

Support equal access to schools and good preschool programmes.

Stop child labour.



'The EU has a force that unites many countries of the world for peace, cooperation, equality between people, funds projects for organisations working to protect the rights of children.'

**Child,
Albania**



QUEEN'S
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RIGHTS

This child-friendly version of the EU Strategy on Children's Rights (The Plan) has been produced in partnership with children themselves. Two groups of children and young people from two schools in Dublin, Ireland, were brought together by the Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. They worked together to decide how the key messages of 'The Plan' should be explained to children in this booklet.

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