



Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of the key principles of the Children's Rights Referendum
2. To explore scenarios where rights have been infringed upon
3. To experience issues affecting Children's Rights in Ireland.

You will need:

1. Copies of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. Copies of Scenarios Handout.

Length: 40 Minutes

Content	Activity	Time
Introduction	<p>Some of the key principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that relate to the Children's Referendum are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Protection against discrimination (Article 2) - which includes discrimination against a child on the basis of the child's parentage. ▶ The best interests of the child (Article 3) - the state is required to ensure that in all matters affecting a child, the best interests of that child are a primary consideration. ▶ The right of the child to be heard (Article 12)- that in decisions affecting them, the views of the child are considered ▶ To determine what is in the best interest of the child - children have a right to be heard and have their views considered. This right is an 'evolving right' given their age and maturity levels. <p>In the following activity children will role play scenarios in which their rights are violated or their best interests come in to conflict with adults/caregivers.</p>	15 mins
Activity (Group Work)	<p>Divide children into small groups of 4 - 6. Handout a scenario for them to role play. Ask children to first determine which right/s is at issue, then to role play solutions for achieving the best outcome. Tip: Remind groups to move the situation forward and to role play both sides of the scenario.</p>	20 mins
Discussion	<p>Ask students to feedback and discuss with the larger group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What rights were being infringed upon? ▶ Were children consulted when decisions were made about them, were they given choices, did they have access to protection? 	15 mins
Inform others	<p>Ask participants to role play their scenarios for the class, school or UNICEF's Video Blog.</p>	

SCENARIOS HANDOUT:

Use scenarios to discuss as a group. Determine which rights are at issue. Role-play both sides of the scenario and try to achieve a successful outcome for everyone.

1

Your parent does not respect your privacy - they regularly search your room, read your Facebook page and emails, they listen to your phone calls.

2

Your principal accuses you of selling drugs and searches your locker and school bag.

3

A friend posts a revealing picture of you online without your permission.

4

You are refused re-entry to your school because you are pregnant.

5

You are a Traveller and find it difficult to attend school due to bullying, the school are unhelpful.

6

Your coach makes derogatory comments about your sexuality.

7

Your parent kicks you out of home for being violent toward your sibling.

8

You are not religious but the only school that you have access to is a Catholic school. They give priority to Catholic children.