THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
CONFENSIWN Y CENHEDLOEDD UNEDIG AR HAWLIAU'R PLENTYN

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was ratified by the UK Government in December 1991. The Convention provides a set of minimum standards relating to children's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and as such represents a comprehensive framework by which to examine the impact of all legislation, policy and practice relating to children's rights. By ratifying the UNCRC the Government undertakes to comply with the Convention and is required to report every 5 years to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on its progress towards implementation.

The Convention expressly gives non-governmental agencies a role in monitoring the implementation of the UNCRC and **Save the Children** plays a key role as part of a Wales wide and UK Alliance submitting reports and supporting children and young people to give evidence to the UN Committee.

Progress in implementing the UN Convention in Wales

The UN Committee last met to review the UK Government's record on children's rights in September 2002 and published their Concluding Observations and Recommendations in October. The Committee welcomed some positive developments from Wales - the prohibition of physical punishment of children by childminders; the development of *Funky Dragon* as a mechanism for listening to the views of children and young people; the establishment of the Children's Commissioner's Office and the adoption of a Strategy for Children and Young People which draws on key principles of the UN Convention.

Key recommendations of the Committee highlighted the need for the systematic incorporation of the Convention into domestic law and policy and the co-ordination of implementation across the devolved administrations.

The Committee also called for a nation-wide system for the collection of disaggregated children's data and substantial expansion of education and training on the UNCRC for all children, young people, adults and professionals working with children.

Rhoddodd Llywodraeth y DU sêl ei bendith ar Gonfensiwn y CU ar Hawliau'r Plentyn ym mis Rhagfyr 1991. Mae'r Confensiwn yn darparu cyfres o safonau gofynnol sy'n berthnasol i hawliau sifil, gwleidyddol, economaidd, cymdeithasol a diwylliannol plant ac mae fel y cyfryw yn cynrychioli fframwaith cynhwysfawr a gaiff ei ddefnyddio i archwilio effaith yr holl ddeddfwriaeth, polisïau ac arferion sy'n ymwneud â hawliau plant. Trwy roi sêl bendith i'r Confensiwn, mae'r Llywodraeth yn ymrwymo i gydymffurfio â'r Confensiwn ac mae'n ofynnol iddi adrodd yn ôl bob 5 mlynedd i Bwyllgor y CU ar Hawliau'r Plentyn ynghylch ei chynnydd tuag at ei weithredu.

Yn benodol rhydd y Confensiwn rôl i asiantaethau anllywodraethol i fonitro'r broses o weithredu'r Confensiwn ac mae **Achub y Plant** yn chwarae rôl allweddol fel rhan o gynghrair y DU a Chymru gyfan i gyflwyno adroddiadau a chefnogi plant a phobl ifanc i roi tystiolaeth gerbron Pwyllgor y CU.

Datblygiad yn y broses o weithredu Confensiwn y CU yng Nghymru

Cyfarfu Pwyllgor y CU ddiwethaf i adolygu hanes Llywodraeth y DU ar hawliau plant ym mis Medi 2002 a bu iddynt gyhoeddi eu Sylwadau a'u Hargymhellion Terfynol ym mis Hydref. Croesawodd y Pwyllgor rai datblygiadau positif o Gymru – atal gwarchodwyr plant rhag cosbi plant yn gorfforol; datblygiad y *Ddraig Ffynci* fel mecanwaith i wrando ar farn plant a phobl ifanc; sefydlu Swyddfa'r Comisiynydd Plant a mabwysiadu Strategaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc sy'n seiliedig ar brif egwyddorion Confensiwn y CU.

Tynnodd prif argymhellion y Pwyllgor sylw at yr angen i ymgorffori'r Confensiwn yn rhan o gyfraith a pholisi domestig mewn modd systematig a chydlynu'r broses weithredu ar draws y gweinyddiaethau datganoledig

Save the Children
Achub y Plant

The next report is due to be submitted in July 2007. It is crucial that systems are in place to effectively monitor the progress Wales is making in securing the rights of children.

Save the Children Wales is committed to contributing to the effective monitoring of the UN Convention in Wales by:

- Carrying out comprehensive Wales wide analyses and research into children's rights in Wales
- Working directly with children and young people to ensure their perspectives impact upon the development of policy in Wales
- Leading a group that supports dialogue between NGO's, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Children's Commissioner and children and young people on monitoring of the Convention

Save the Children would like to see the Welsh Assembly Government:

- Disseminate the UNCRC and raise the level of awareness about children's rights amongst children and young people, their families and professionals working with children across Wales
- The systematic incorporation of the CRC into domestic legislation
- Use the Convention as a framework for all strategies and policy development that effect children and young people in Wales
- Establish mechanisms to ensure collection of disaggregated data on children in Wales
- Establish a system of review in Wales to measure progress achieved in implementing the UNCRC
- Establish mechanisms for monitoring the impact of non-devolved issues on children and young people in Wales.

For further information on Save the Children's work on monitoring the UN Convention please contact Anne Crowley or Rhian Croke on 029 2039 6838; a.crowley@savethechildren.org.uk; r.croke@savethechildren.org.uk**.**

Galwodd y Pwyllgor hefyd am system genedlaethol i gasglu data am blant ar wahân ac i ehangu'n sylweddol yr addysg a'r hyfforddiant am y Confensiwn i blant, pobl ifanc, oedolion a gweithwyr proffesiynol sy'n gweithio gyda phlant.

Disgwylir i'r adroddiad nesaf gael ei gyflwyno ym mis Gorffennaf 2007. Mae'n bwysig bod systemau ar waith i fonitro'n effeithiol gynnydd Cymru i sicrhau hawliau plant.

Mae Achub y Plant yn ymroddedig i gyfrannu at fonitro Confensiwn y CU yng Nghymru yn effeithiol trwy:

- Gyflawni dadansoddiadau a gwaith ymchwil cynhwysfawr ledled Cymru ar hawliau plant yng Nghymru
- Gweithio'n uniongyrchol gyda phlant a phobl ifanc i sicrhau bod eu safbwyntiau yn dylanwadu ar y broses o ddatblygu polisïau yng Nghymru
- Arwain grŵp sy'n cefnogi deialog rhwng cyrff Anllywodraethol, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, y Comisiynydd Plant a phlant a phobl ifanc ar fonitro'r Confensiwn

Hoffai Achub y Plant weld Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn:

- Lledaenu'r Confensiwn a chodi lefel yr ymwybyddiaeth ynghylch hawliau plant ymysg plant a phobl ifanc, eu teuluoedd a gweithwyr proffesiynol sy'n gweithio gyda phlant ledled Cymru
- Ymgorffori'r Confensiwn ar Hawliau'r Plentyn yn rhan o ddeddfwriaeth ddomestig mewn modd systematig
- Defnyddio'r Confensiwn fel fframwaith ar gyfer pob strategaeth a datblygu polisïau sy'n effeithio ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru
- Sefydlu mecanweithiau i sicrhau y cesglir data am blant yng Nghymru ar wahân
- Sefydlu system adolygu yng Nghymru i fesur y cynnydd a wneir wrth roi'r Confensiwn ar waith
- Sefydlu mecanweithiau ar gyfer monitro effaith materion nad ydynt wedi'u datganoli ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru.

Am fwy o wybodaeth am waith Achub y Plant ar fonitro Confensiwn y CU, cysylltwch ag Anne Crowley neu Rhian Croke ar 029 2039 6838 neu a.crowley@savethechildren.org.uk; r.croke@savethechildren.org.uk**.**