

The Institute for
Inspiring Children's Futures
at the University of Strathclyde

Special CPD Course on
Children's Human Rights

7-11 March 2022

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



This new week-long Continuing Professional Development course, taught in English, has been developed for those with an interest in children's rights, to gain insights from the international children's human rights context and its application to a national context.

This is an important moment in Scotland, as the incorporation of UNCRC into Scottish legislation comes closer to reality, and the lessons being learned in Scotland will be of interest to the international community.

This course is offered by the **Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures** and led by **Professor Ann Skelton**, with guest speakers from **Together for Children's Rights**, the **Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland**, the **Observatory of Children's Human Rights Scotland** and the **Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law**.

Classes will be taught in-person at the University of Strathclyde Technology and Innovation Building, Glasgow; while the course is designed for in-person delivery, the morning plenary sessions will also be live-streamed online via Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

Professor Ann Skelton is a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures. She is an elected member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria, where she holds the UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa. Having worked as a children's rights lawyer in South Africa for over 25 years, Professor Skelton is a respected global figure in academia and across international children's rights practice, with an established track record in the areas of youth justice and alternative care in both research and legal practice.

What you'll learn:

This course will offer delegates a unique understanding of the workings of the UNCRC, and an analysis of the application of the UNCRC to a national context. It presumes a basic understanding of the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Children, and will be directed to those with an interest in children's rights, as well as those who work in the spaces in which children's rights are central to their role.

Morning plenary sessions will cover a behind-the-scenes look at the CRC Committee; insight into the ongoing development of children's rights internationally; the ways in which the Communications procedure (a complaints process) has been applied under the CRC; the approaches of other related treaty bodies; and reflection and learning on a range of ways to incorporate the UNCRC to realise children's rights.

Applied afternoon interactive sessions in smaller groups with a range of speakers will explore the application of children's human rights to specific Scotland contexts, in areas yet to be determined, for example: poverty, participation, alternative care, children in conflict with the law, access to justice, child rights budgeting and child rights impact assessments.

Daily closing panel discussion will draw key insights from across the day with a focus on solutions.

Optional facilitated networking sessions will give delegates the opportunity to strengthen their children's human rights professional networks, strengthening and sustaining learning.

Cost:

£295 for 5 days; the course is designed for in-person learning. Online streaming will be available for the morning session, unfortunately no additional discount can be applied for online-only attendance.

Discounts for: staff of organisations with a Together or Eurochild membership, and students.

[Click here to register and for payment](#)

Recognition:

Attendees (min 10 hours) are provided with a Certificate of Attendance for CPD purposes, and have the potential to achieve Recognition of Prior Learning for contribution toward an advanced placement on the **University of Strathclyde LLM Masters in Human Rights Law** (or related postgraduate Certificate or Diploma).

COVID-19 Assurances:

Visit our dedicated webpage for the measures we have put in place to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of delegates and staff. To make the event most accessible to all, there is an expectation that everyone attending in person will use a lateral flow test in advance of attending each day.

Programme:

GMT TIMES	MONDAY 7 MAR	TUESDAY 8 MAR	WEDNESDAY 9 MAR	THURSDAY 10 MAR	FRIDAY 11 MAR
10.00	Registration and coffee				
10.30	OPENING				
10.45 - 12.45	Session 1: Behind the scenes at the CRC Committee	Session 2: The ongoing evolving and development of children's rights	Session 3: The communications complaints procedure under the CRC	Session 4: Connecting the CRC to wider human rights mechanisms and instruments	Session 5: Incorporation of the CRC - a range of ways to realise children's rights
12.45 - 13.30	LUNCH				
13.30 - 15.00	Breakout session	Breakout session	Breakout session	Breakout session	Panel discussion
15.00 - 15.15	Coffee break				END
15.15 - 16.00	Panel discussion				
16.00	END				
16.00 - 16.30	Facilitated Networking (optional)				



Morning Sessions in more detail:

SESSION 1:

Behind the scenes at the CRC Committee

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the Committee on the Rights of the Child? This session begins with a glimpse behind the curtain of how members are nominated and elected, and how such a political process can be reconciled with being an 'independent expert'. It explores the inner-workings of a committee made up of 18 members from different parts of the world and how the committee resolves differences of opinion when they do occur. It also engages with the effects of COVID-19 on the work of the Committee and concludes with a future-looking consideration of the CRC Committee against the backdrop of impending Treaty Body reform. Professor Ann Skelton will add her reflections to the publicly available information on these themes.

SESSION 2:

The ongoing evolving and development of children's rights

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted more than 30 years ago. Soft international law that is developed by the CRC Committee helps to sustain the implementation of the Convention and keep it in step with contemporary societal developments. Concluding observations, days of general discussion, general comments and the issuing of statements all play a role in normative development. There is push-back on this normative expansion of children's rights, with some States Parties claiming that there is a constant moving of goal posts. This session explores thematic case studies that examine the development of children's rights through soft law, including children of imprisoned parents, the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and children's right to an effective remedy.





SESSION 3:

The Communications complaints procedure under the CRC

The Communications Procedure – or ‘complaints procedure’ as it is sometimes referred to – allows the Committee to receive and deal with individual complaints or requests for inquiries into the violation of children’s rights. The Third Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) has been in operation since 2014. This session will focus on the individual communications mechanism. The procedures will be briefly explained, followed by an exploration of the cases. Cases dealing with contemporary issues such as child migration, climate change and the children of foreign fighters held in Syrian camps will be explored. Trends in the cases and jurisprudential developments such as extra-territorial jurisdiction will be discussed.

SESSION 4:

Connecting the CRC to wider human rights mechanisms and instruments

The horizon is broadened in this session to look beyond the CRC and the CRC Committee, to consider how other Treaties and Treaty Bodies play a role in the advancement and enforcements of children’s international human rights. Still within the UN, there are several other Treaty Bodies with communications procedures and this is important for children living in States that have not ratified OPIC. At the regional level, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is another full length legal instrument, with a built-in communications procedure. While the European and Inter-American human rights systems do not have dedicated child rights instruments or complaints procedures, the human rights mechanisms have engaged with children’s rights matters in numerous communications. Cases dealt with by the different mechanisms are used to illustrate the advancement of children’s rights at the regional level.

SESSION 5:

Incorporation of the CRC – a range of ways to realise children’s rights

Against the backdrop of Scotland’s CRC Incorporation Bill, this session compares how incorporation of the CRC has been undertaken in other countries. Embodying the CRC at the domestic level can take many forms. This session evaluates selected country experiences against models and methodologies described by children’s rights scholars. Scotland’s approach can be better understood when contrasted with other experiences, which lays the groundwork for optimising the opportunities that transformative incorporation can deliver.

Facilitated Networking Sessions (optional):

We recognise that professional networks are important to the work we all undertake, and that opportunities to widen and deepen these networks have been trickier to find during COVID-19. This session is an informal, lightly facilitated session aimed particularly at those working in the policy arena in relation to Children’s Rights. These will be shaped by those who attend and will be supported by colleagues from the Observatory for Children’s Human Rights Scotland.

