

Here's a LIST OF ALL THE

RIGHTS UNDER THE CHILDREN'S CONVENTION:



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THESE ARTICLES EXPLAIN HOW

ADULTS AND GOVERNMENTS

WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

YOUR RIGHTS

IF YOU'RE IN

TROUBLE WITH

THE LAW

HELP &

RECOVERY IF

YOU'RE HARMED

WWW.MANAMOKOPUNA.org.NZ/ RIGHTS/ALL-RIGHTS-UNDER-THE-CHILDRENS-CONVENTION/

TO SEE THE FULL LIST AND ARTICLES

KIA ORA!

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS?

Children's rights ensure all mokopuna are Heard and have what they need to grow up loved, safe, healthy, and happy. The Government has committed to the Children's Convention to make Aotearoa New Zealand a great place for all mokopuna.

This booklet lets you know what the Government must do to help all mokopuna live their best lives. In our country, the Chief Children's Commissioner and others stand up for children's rights, making sure the Government always considers what's best for them under the Children's Convention.

We use the term 'mokopuna' to refer to all children and young people under the age of 18, and we use either term based on the purpose or context. 'Mokopuna' brings together 'moko' (imprint or tattoo) and 'puna' (spring of water), describing that we are descendants, and we need to think across generations for a better present and future.

We extend a huge thank you to the 31 mokopuna that were involved in the design of this booklet.

ngā mihi nui ki a koutou!













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THE CHILDREN'S CONVENTION

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is a **SPECIAL** document that sets out the rights of all children under the age of 18. Human rights are the basic standards for all people to live in dignity and be **TREATED FAIRLY**.

Almost every country has agreed to make the Children's Convention a reality. In Aotearoa New Zealand, our Government has agreed that all mokopuna have the rights set out in the Children's Convention.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The Committee is a group of **experts** from all over the world that looks at how children's rights are being protected in different countries.

To find out what's happening in different countries, they look at reports and information and talk with people, including mokeopuna themselves. The Committee wants to know how different groups of children experience their rights day to day, what's going well & what's difficult for children.



so, Here are the

COMMITTEE'S CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS FOR AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND ...



SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN

The Committee asks our Government to urgently do better for:



Mokopuna who experience violence



Mokopuna living away from their whānau



Mokopuna whaikaha (disabled children)

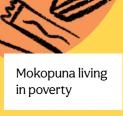






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Mokopuna Māori



Mokopuna have a right to Have THEIR Say in decision-making.

The Committee asks that our Government includes young voices in all official decisions that relate to their lives, such as custody cases, child protection, youth justice, education, immigration and the environment. As well as anything else that matters to them, like climate change goals.

They want mokopuna to be involved in the Government's planning and decision-making.

They also recommend that information about child protection laws should be widely available, and that the justice system is more accessible for children.

HOH-DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is when someone treats another person unfairly or differently because of things like their race, gender, religion, or other traits.

You should never be discriminated against for any Reason,

including your ethnicity, gender, language, religion, opinion, social or economic status, sexual orientation, birth or any other aspect of your family or identity.

The Committee is concerned that discrimination happens a lot for Māori, Pasifika and other groups of children and young people, and asks our Government to prioritise action against racism and other forms of discrimination.

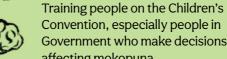


LAWS & POLICY

Some of our laws, like the Oranga Tamariki Act and the Children's Act, mention the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but the Committee thinks the Government should do more to focus on children's rights, including:



Ensuring the Children's Convention is fully part of our laws



Government who make decisions affecting mokopuna



Making sure children can be part of developing laws and policies that



Civil rights are the rules that make sure everyone is treated fairly. They include things like voting and freedom of speech.

The Committee made suggestions about better protecting the following mokopuna rights:

- Identity
- Privacy & access to information
- Voting and ensuring active participation, especially if the voting age is lowered to 16.

They also encouraged the Government to make sure children are safe online and in the digital environment.

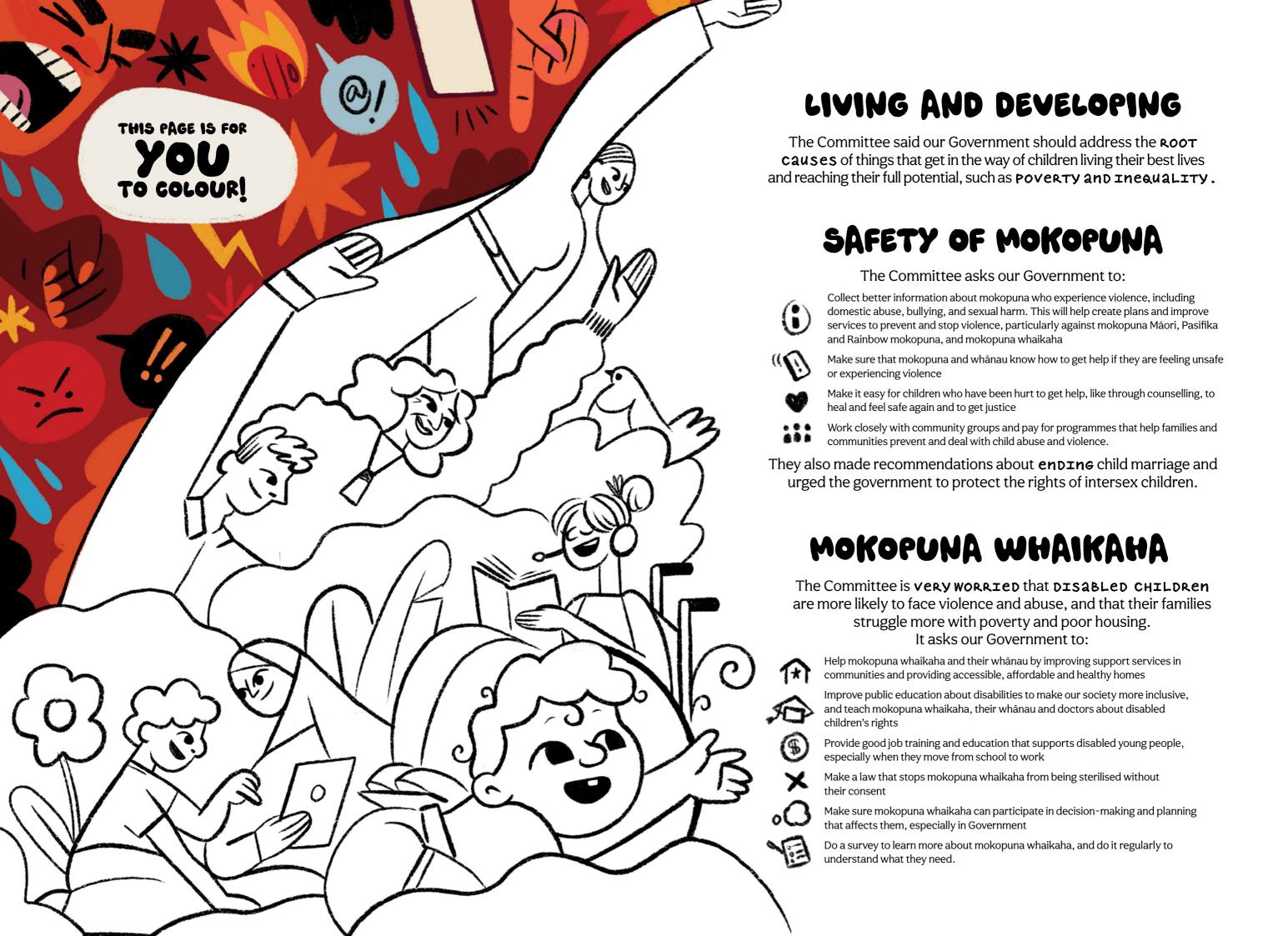


GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Overall, the Committee said Aotearoa New Zealand should be doing better for children across all areas of their lives. This includes the Government getting good information about children's lives and experiences so it can understand what mokopuna need and improve planning and budgeting for them.

The Committee says the budget should include money for all mokopuna, especially those who need extra help.





CARING FOR MOKOPUNA

The Committee made recommendations about community Lep and **CULTURALLY RESPECTFUL** care, protection and youth justice services and supports for mokopuna and their whānau.

They also said our adoption laws need to change so they protect mokopuna rights.

The Committee advised that if children must be removed from their home, it should be for the shortest time possible, with good support and a way back to the care of their whanau and community.

It asks our Government to **urgently**:



Invest more in solutions led by Māori communities to stop mokopuna Māori being put in homes away from their



The Committee recommends a focus on IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH by:

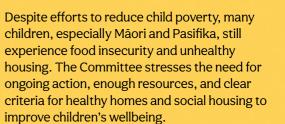
Expanding vaccination programmes, enforcing standards for healthier rental homes, promoting breastfeeding, and strictly enforcing rules against smoking.

It asks our Government to:

Address mental health inequalities for Māori, Pasifika, and Rainbow youth, and improve access to affordable, timely and high-quality mental health and suicide prevention services.

Make sure there is comprehensive sex education in schools, and that all adolescents receive confidential and accessible sexual health information and services, including contraceptives.

> The Committee was very worried about how many mokopuna still experience poverty, food insecurity and unhealthy housing. They asked the Government to prioritise healthy homes for mokopuna particularly for mokopuna Māori, Pasifika mokopuna and mokopuna whaikaha.



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The Committee urges the Government to Involve young **People**, especially Māori, Pasifika, and those from low-income backgrounds, in planning and decision-making to address the impacts of CLIMATE CHANGE.

EDUCATION

When it comes to education, the Committee asks our Government to:



Let young people have meaningful input into decisions that affect them at school



Make sure that education is inclusive for all children & that mokopuna whaikaha have their rights to education met



Address racism and bullying, with a priority focus on mokopuna whaikaha, mokopuna Māori, Pasifika and Rainbow mokopuna



Strengthen te reo & tikanga Māori & history education in schools



Ensure that children have a say in how schools are run & set up



Set up a panel to make sure children are not unfairly removed from school



Make sure families know about the subsidies available for early childhood education.







WHAT'S NEXT?

Our Government needs to work on the recommendations from the Committee and now it has a **TO-DO LIST** to meet the rights of mokopuna!

It must report to the United Nations about its progress on children's rights in the lead up to the next Concluding Observations. The Committee will check how things have improved for mokopuna in Aotearoa New Zealand in about 8 years.

Over this time, Mana Mokopuna - Children and Young People's Commission and the Children's Convention Monitoring Group will be monitoring how the government is doing on children's rights. The Chief Children's Commissioner, working together with mokopuna and communities, will be advocating for the 2023 Concluding Observations to be actioned!

Remember, our Government holds the greatest responsibility, but we all play a part in ensuring our country is a good place to grow up. So that all children's rights are respected for **all mokopuna**, all the time.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

If you think **more** needs to be done, you could write to your local MP with your concerns and ideas. You could also do a project on children's rights at school, or start a club!

We encourage you to keep learning about children's rights. Remember, you have a RIGHT TO Have a say in decisions that impact you!



To learn more about your rights, please use the **QR CODE** on the last page.





Here's a LIST OF ALL THE

RIGHTS UNDER THE CHILDREN'S CONVENTION:



ARTICLE

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RECOVERY IF

YOU'RE HARMED



ARTICLE

HAVING

YOUR SAY



ARTICLES

13+14

FREEDOM OF

EXPRESSION,

THOUGHT AND

RELIGION





DEVELOPMENT













YOUR RIGHT TO INFORMATION





YOU CAN'T BE

WITH YOUR

FAMILY







AS A REFUGEE

ARTICLE

CLUBS



DISABILITY





YOUR RIGHT TO FOOD, HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT





ARTICLE 30

IF YOU'RE

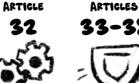
ADOPTED







WORK



33-38

YOUR RIGHTS TO BE PROTECTED FROM HARM & EXPLOITATION



ARTICLE

40

YOUR RIGHTS

IF YOU'RE IN

TROUBLE WITH

THE LAW

YOUR RIGHTS TO EDUCATION

ARTICLES

41-54

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

CULTURAL RELIGIOUS & LANGUAGE RIGHTS

YOUR RIGHTS TO REST, PLAY, CULTURE & ARTS

VISIT

WWW.MANAMOKOPUNA.ORG.NZ/ RIGHTS/ALL-RIGHTS-UNDER-THE-CHILDRENS-CONVENTION/

THESE ARTICLES EXPLAIN HOW ADULTS AND GOVERNMENTS WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT

TO SEE THE FULL LIST AND ARTICLES



THIS RESOURCE IS A SUMMARY OF THE 2023 CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS. TO READ THE FULL TEXT, PLEASE USE THIS QR CODE



LET MANA MOKOPUNA -CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMISSION KNOW WHAT MATTERS MOST IN YOUR WORLD ANYTIME @childrenscommn2







