



17–23 November 2025

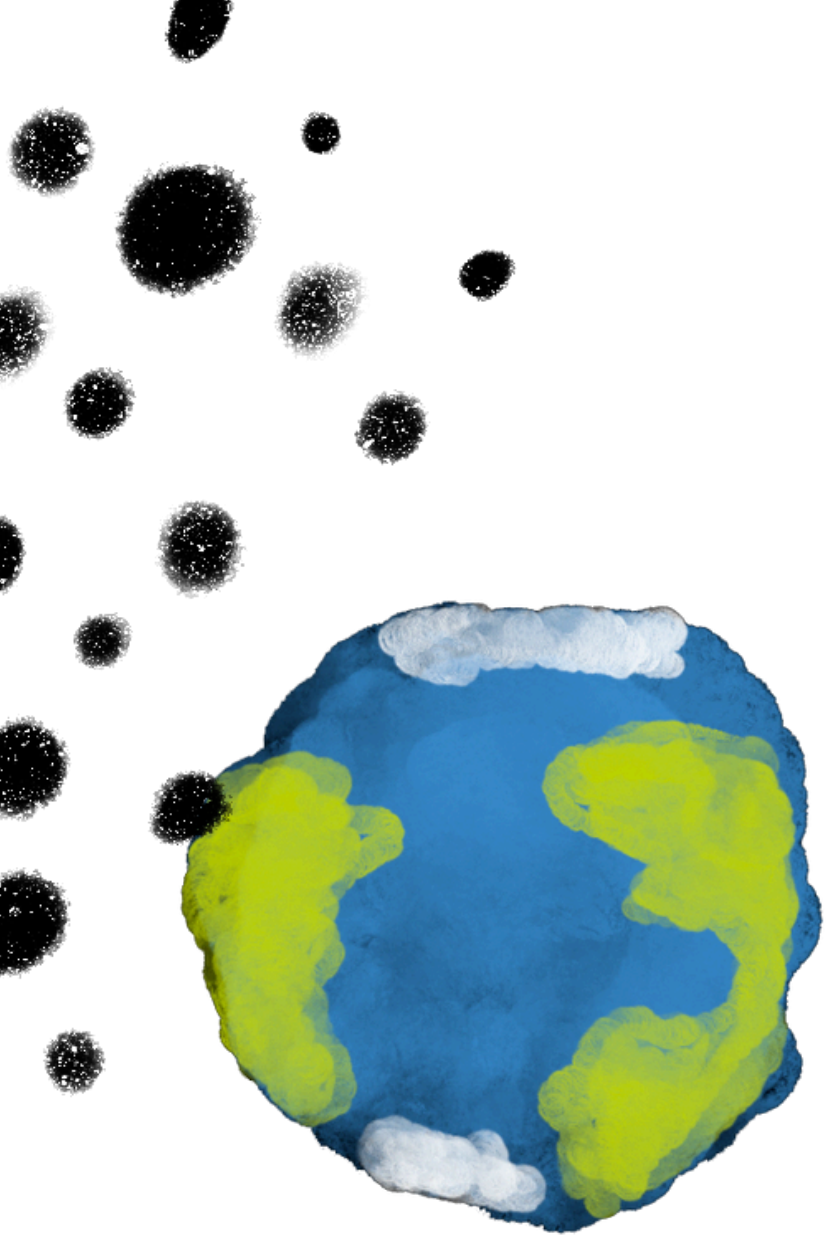
**RIGHT TO BELONG
AND BE HEARD**



The rights of the child apply to every child without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's individual characteristics, or those of a parent or legal guardian, including race; skin colour; sex; language; religion; political or other views; national, ethnic or social origin; property; disability; birth or other status.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**LAPSEN
OIKEUDET**



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees every child and young person the right to live and grow up in safety.

The Convention has been ratified by all countries of the world except the United States of America. In Finland, the Convention was enacted in law in 1991 and has been in force ever since.

The four general principles of the UNCRC:



No child should
suffer
discrimination.

Article 2

The child has the right
to life, survival and
development.

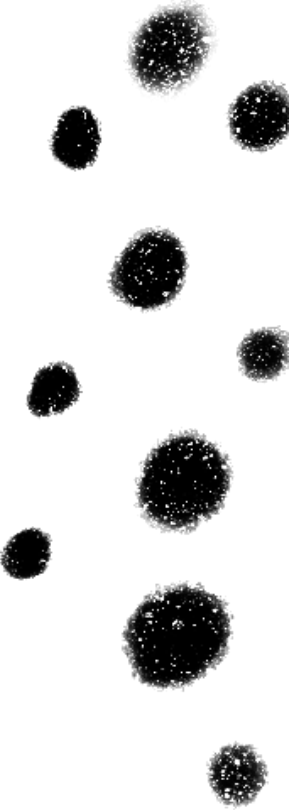
Article 6

The best interests of
the child
must be a primary
consideration.

Article 3

The child has the right
to have their views
considered.

Article 12





World Children's Day takes place every year on

20 November

World Children's Day
is an established flag day in Finland.

Children's Rights Week is a theme week held in connection with World Children's Day to raise awareness of children's rights. It is organised by the National Child Rights Communication Network.

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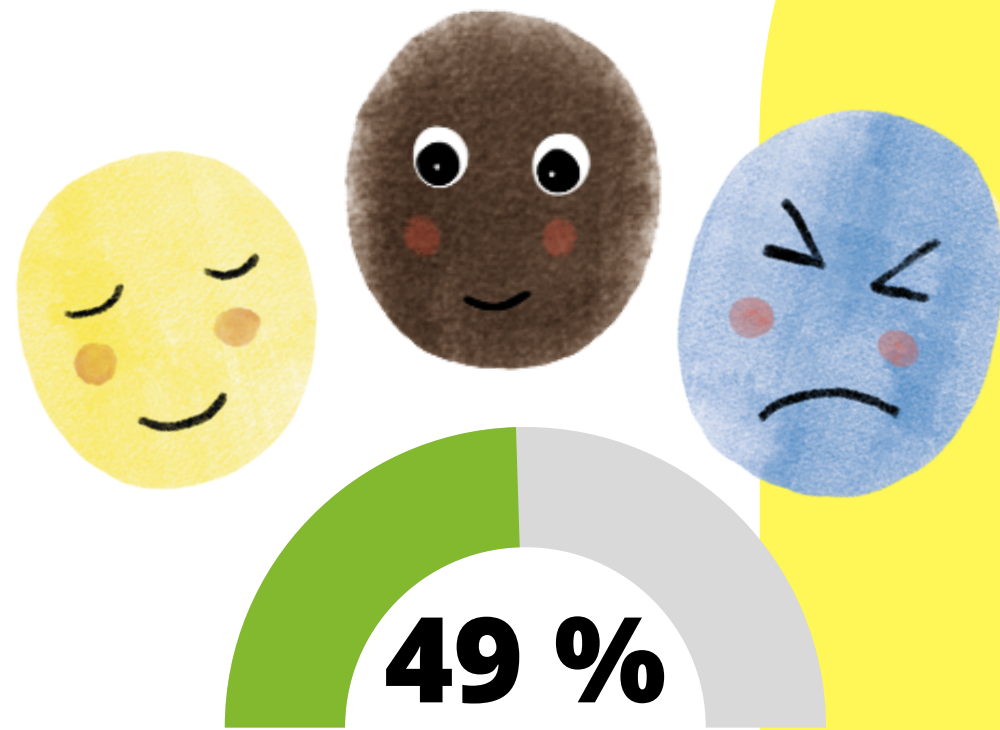


The theme for
Children's Rights Week
2025 is

**EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT
TO BELONG AND BE HEARD**

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OIKEUDET**

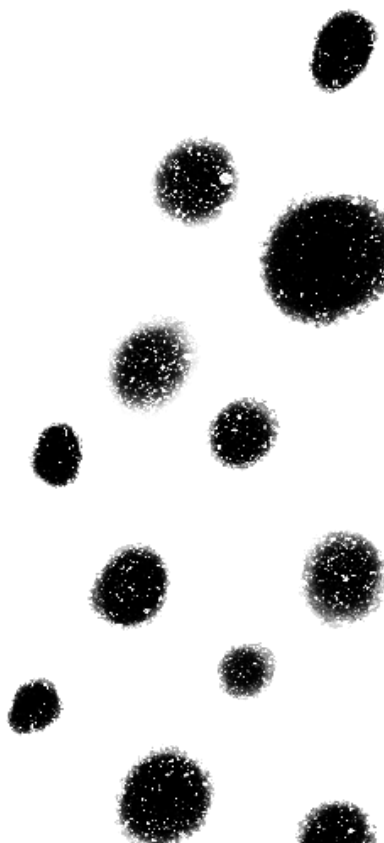
The rights of the child through the eyes of children 2024

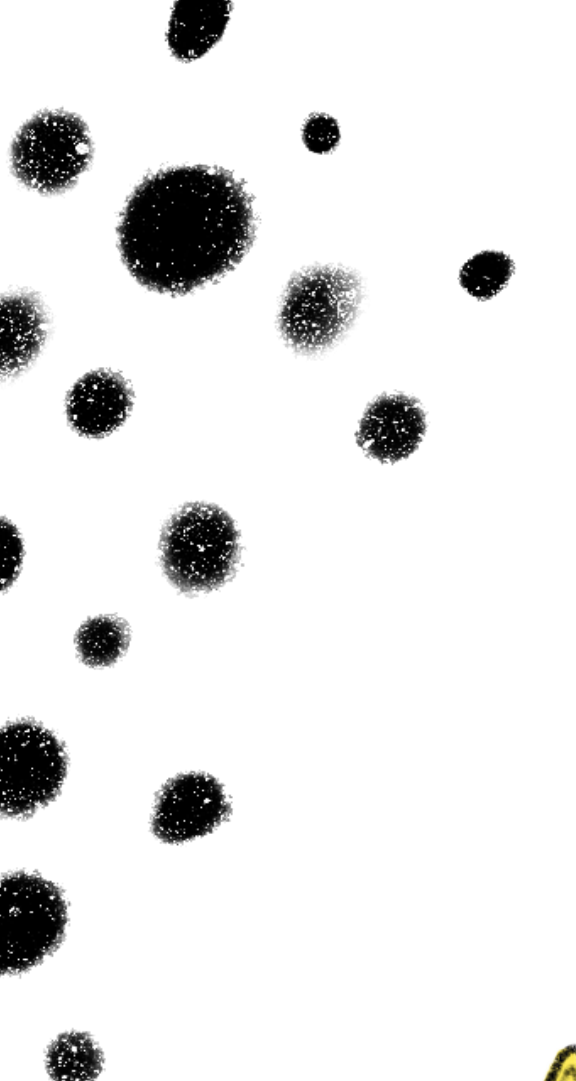


Only 49% of children and young people aged 10-17 who responded to the questionnaire on children's rights feel that their views are considered too rarely in matters that concern them.

However, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child points out that every child has the right to belong and be heard.

Children can express their views orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art or even by taking part in a demonstration. Children also have the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly.





The purpose of the UNCRC is to protect the wellbeing and development of children. Here are some rights related to belonging and being heard:

Article 12

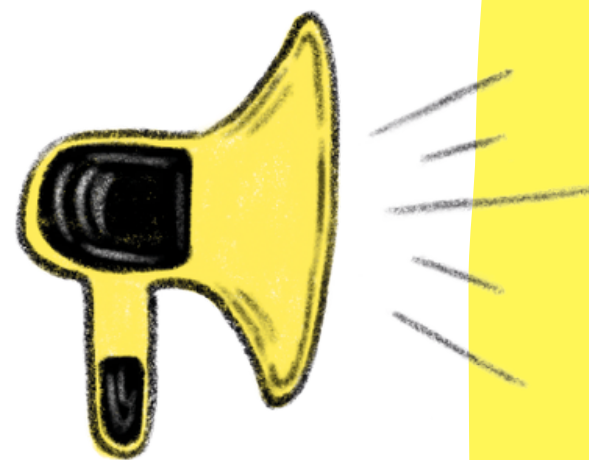
Children's views must be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.

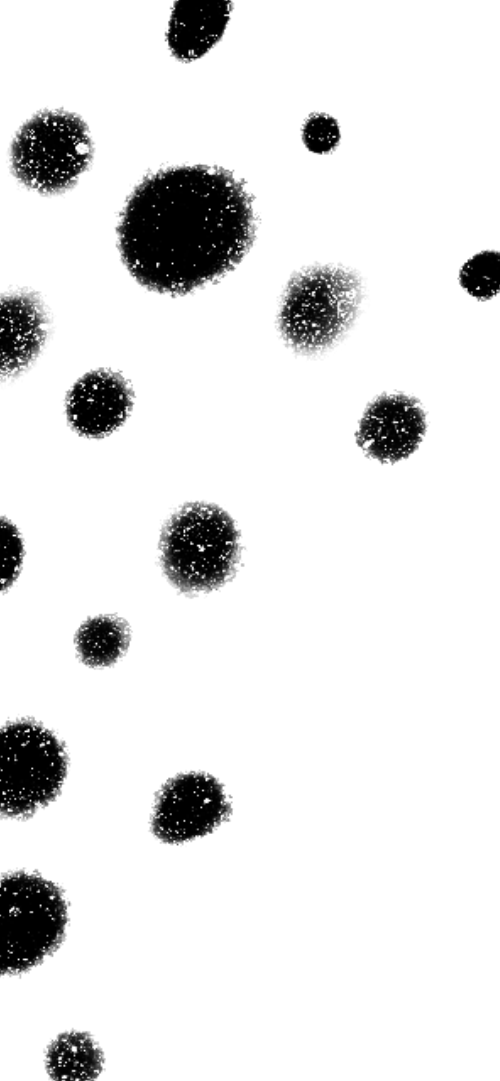
Article 13

Children have the right to express their opinion. Children have the right to receive information.

Article 15

Children have the right to organise and operate in associations.





The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child monitors the implementation of the Rights of the Child. The Committee thinks that Finland should, for example:

- Ensure that children and adults are informed about the rights of the child
- Minimise discrimination, for example through awareness-raising campaigns
- Improve children's digital literacy
- Ensure that children in foster care are informed of their rights
- Ensure that all children receive accurate information about sexual health
- Ensure that all children have equal access to education
- Ensure that children have free leisure activities in all municipalities





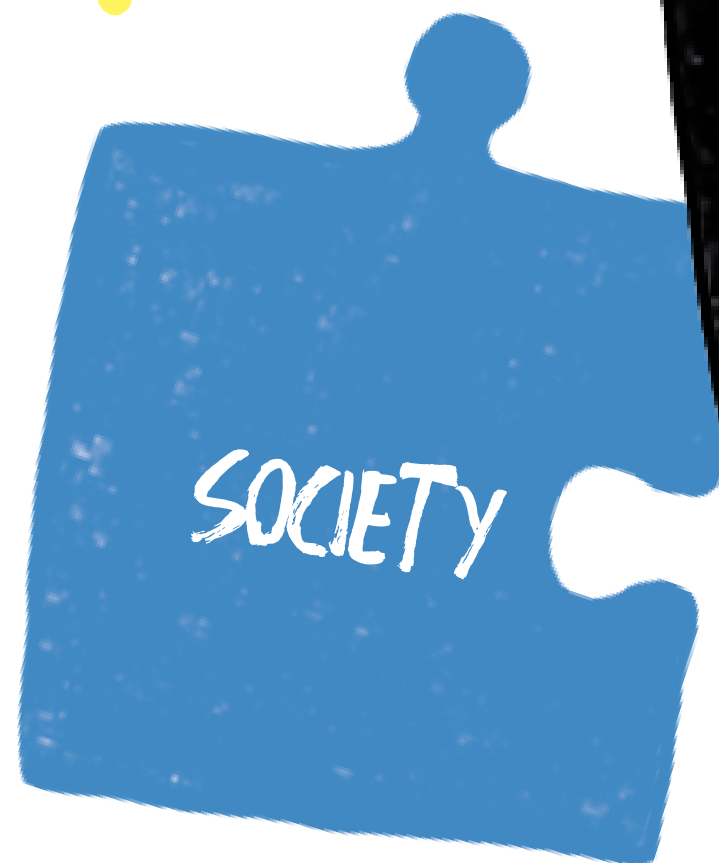
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What is the meaning behind the theme?

The theme has two parts: children have the right to belong to a community and society and they have the right to be heard.



EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT
TO BELONG AND BE HEARD



COMMUNITIES
family
school
congregation
hobbies

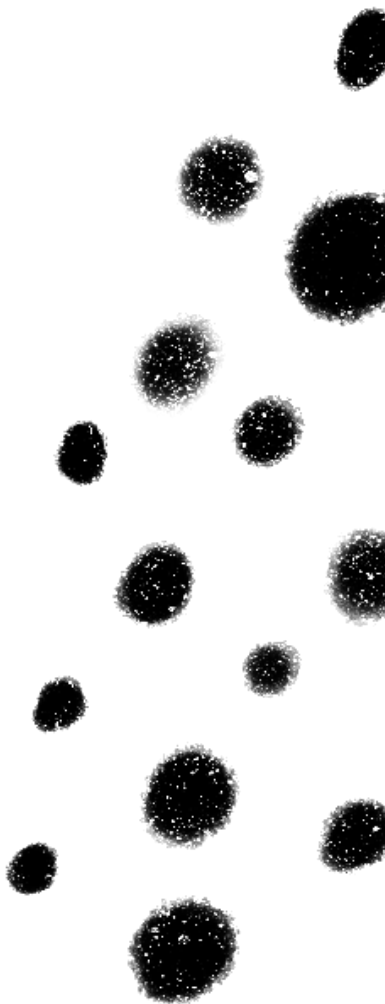
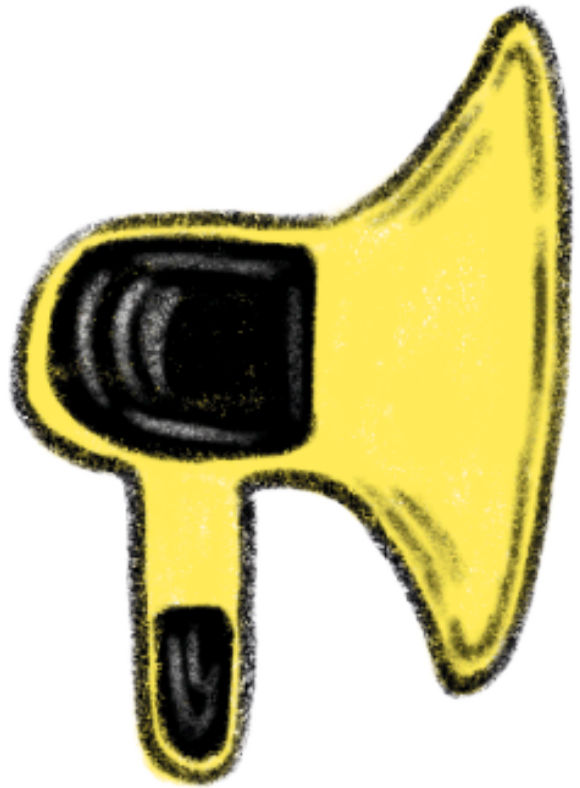
OPINIONS
hopes
fears
thoughts

PARTICIPATION
a sense of
belonging
ability to influence
decisions

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Things to consider

- Which communities do you belong to?
- Do you dare to express your views and are they taken into account?
- What could you do differently to make it easier for others to feel like they belong and are able to share their thoughts?



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