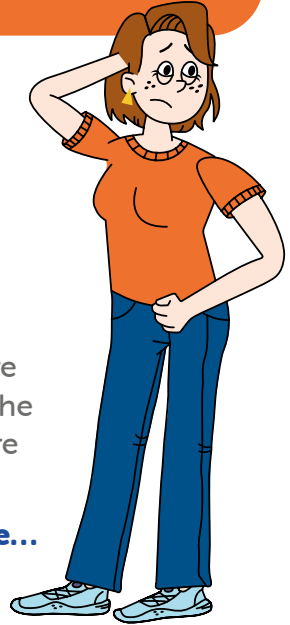


I want to see my brother and sister... What are my rights?



Keep
The Promise



Everyone under 18 has the same rights – laid out in the **UNCRC** – that must be upheld, whether they are in prison, a Young Offender Institution, or living in the community. Throughout your time in prison, you are still entitled to all of these rights.

**It is important that you know what these rights are...
You have the right to know your rights!**

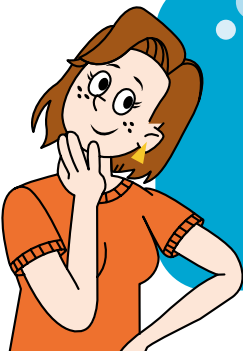


In fact, there are some rights specific to young people in prison that make sure that you are receiving the support you are entitled to. These are upheld by **Article 37** of the UNCRC.

What is the UNCRC?

UNCRC stands for the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

Children and young people have the same human rights as adults, as well as some extra rights that recognise the importance of childhood as a time for growth, learning and play.





You have a right to keep in touch with your family and other loved ones.

You should be actively supported to maintain – and, where necessary, rebuild – your relationships with your loved ones while you are in prison, where this is in your best interests.

Sibling relationships can be especially important. This includes anyone you may have a sibling-like relationship with (e.g. cousins, step-siblings, residents of the same care placements), even if you aren't blood-related.

If you are on remand, you are entitled to **at least 30 minutes of visit time each weekday.**

If you have been convicted, you are entitled to **at least two one-hour visits per month.**

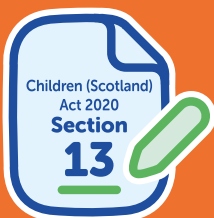
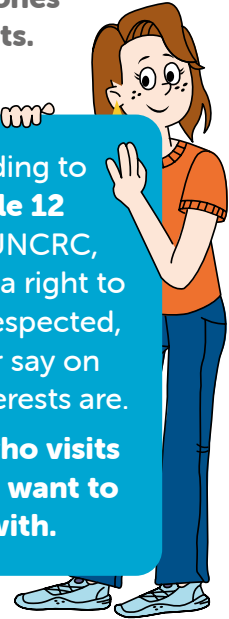
If your siblings find it difficult to pay for travel to a visit, they can apply for financial support for visiting through the **Help with Prison Visits** scheme.

Family Contact Officers working within the prison can provide support to your sibling for any concerns they may have around visiting. **Prison Visitors' Centres** also provide support, advice, and information to visitors when they are coming for a visit.



According to **Article 12** of the UNCRC, you have a right to have your views respected, and to have your say on what your best interests are.

You can decide who visits you and who you want to be in touch with.



'Sibling-like' relationships are protected to the same level as blood relatives by **Section 13** of the **Children (Scotland) Act 2020.**

You can also stay in touch with your loved ones through other methods... including **phone calls**, video calls, emails, and post.

You have a right to privacy.



This includes a right to a private family life, and for your phone calls and emails to be kept private. However, in Scottish prisons, calls may be monitored or recorded at random – and your siblings will receive a prerecorded warning about this when they receive a call from the prison.

You have the right to information.



The prison cannot restrict or refuse your visits unless your sibling is also in prison or on temporary release – but, even then, this only happens in exceptional circumstances.

If the prison refuses or restricts your contact with your sibling, you are entitled to be informed of the reasons for this – and this should be reviewed regularly while you are in prison.

You have the right to help and support.



[Families Outside](#) is the only national charity that works solely on behalf of families in Scotland affected by imprisonment. We provide support through our non-judgemental Support & Information Helpline as well as our one-to-one support.



0800 254 0088



support@familiesoutside.org.uk



Text FAMOUT followed by your message to 6077

Article 20 of the UNCRC lays out your right to special support and protection as a young person who is not living with their family.

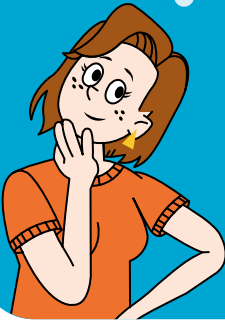


You have the right to express your thoughts and opinions.



If you would like support to have your voice and views heard, you also have the **right to an advocate**.

What is an advocate?



An **advocate** is someone independent of the prison system who is there to help you. They can provide information about your rights, support you to express your views or speak on your behalf, help you to prepare and take part in meetings, Children's Hearings and reviews, support you to share a concern or make a complaint, and help you access other services.

Some organisations that provide **advocacy services** and **support** include...



Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance – 0131 510 9410



Scottish Prisoner Advocacy and Research Collective (SPARC) – scot.prisoner.advocacy@gmail.com



Clan Childlaw – 0808 129 0522



Scottish Child Law Centre – 0300 3301 421



Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland – 0800 019 1179

Your access to legal advice, presentation, and advocacy should be ongoing throughout your time in prison.