

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

families
outside

supporting
families affected
by imprisonment



Keep
The Promise

Everyone under 18 has the same rights – laid out in the **UNCRC** – that must be upheld. Every child and young person has the right to see their family and stay close to their brothers and sisters, whether they are in prison, secure care, or living in the community.

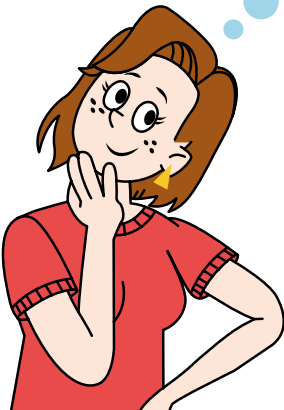
It is important that you know what these rights are... You have the right to know your rights!



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.



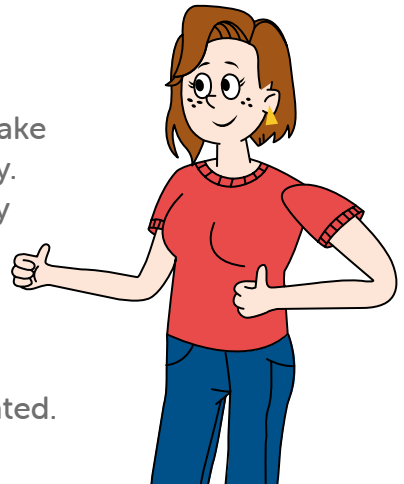
This means the state should not separate you from your family without a good reason. **You should be actively supported to maintain – and, where necessary, rebuild – your relationships with your loved ones, whether they are in prison or secure care or not.**



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 you want to have contact with, where this is in your best interests.

Sibling relationships can be especially important. In Scotland, the law says the people who take care of children must make sure they get to see their siblings regularly. This law is there to make sure siblings stay in touch and keep their bond strong. 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.



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

You are entitled to visit your siblings in prison or secure care, as well as keeping in touch through letters, messages, phone calls, or video calls.

If you need support or supervision to visit or stay in touch in other ways, social workers and carers should support you to do so.

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.

You can get in touch if you need support or feel worried about your siblings –

Article 20 of the UNCRC lays out your right to special support and protection as a care-experienced young person.



0800 254 0088



support@familiesoutside.org.uk



Text FAMOUT followed by your message to 6077

In Scottish prisons, **Family Contact Officers** can provide support for any concerns you may have around visiting. **Prison Visitors' Centres** also provide support, advice, and information when you visit your siblings. Some secure care providers also have **dedicated family services** to support you and your siblings with keeping in touch.

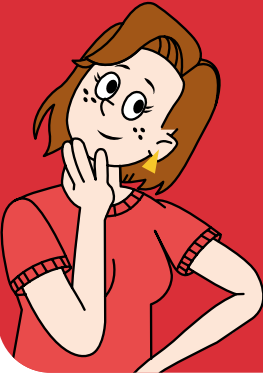


You have the right to express your thoughts and opinions.



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 an independent person 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...



Who Cares? Scotland – 0330 107 7540



The Why Not? Trust – 01786 477810



Clan Childlaw – 0808 129 0522



Scottish Child Law Centre – 0300 3301 421



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

