

Report II

Report on the consultation of young people in the Netherlands on their rights

SPEAK OUT ON YOUR RIGHTS

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In March 1997, the Kinderrechtencollectief (KRC) presented the report "Children's rights as a mirror of Dutch society: NGO report on the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child in the Netherlands" to the UN Commission on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. In 1999, the KRC produced an updated version of the NGO report. It was always the intention of the KRC to give young people the opportunity to inform the Commission of their opinion on the legal position of children and young people in the Netherlands.

Neither the KRC's first report, nor the official report from the Dutch government on the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in the Netherlands devoted attention to the opinion of Dutch youngsters.

In 1998, the KRC began asking young people about their legal position. On the basis of: "information first, participation next", an information leaflet was produced about the rights of children in the Netherlands. The leaflet 'Right on' (*Recht toe, recht aan*) was written for young people between 12 and 18. Subjects include: rights at school, at work, at home, with the police and justice authorities, at the doctor, and the rights of children living away from home.

A questionnaire was added to the leaflet and young people were asked to fill it in. '*Recht toe, recht aan*' was sent to schools, neighbourhood centres, care homes and a youth municipal council. Around 100 questionnaires were completed and these 100 young people were interviewed on the basis of these questionnaires.

In addition to this more personal approach, the KRC also published the questionnaire in national newspaper Trouw on 20 November 1998, the international day for the rights of the child. Young people between 12 and 18 were asked to fill in the questionnaire. Many teachers copied the questionnaire for the children in their class and devoted a lesson to the rights of the child. The questionnaire was also included in a magazine for study advisors in the first three years of senior education. The theme of the magazine was human and children's rights. The study advisors were explicitly asked to distribute the questionnaire among their pupils and incorporate it in a lesson. In total, the KRC received more than 8,200 completed questionnaires.

The results of this national youth consultation are presented in this report. It provides an insight into what young people know about their rights, which rights they consider important and whether they believe they are being taken seriously and can have a say on subjects that matter to them. The coming months will see more interviews with groups of young people. The KRC will subsequently consider how to follow up on involving young people in monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Netherlands.

THE RESULTS

Below are the results of the consultations of young people based on the questionnaires. The questionnaire enclosed with the leaflet '*Recht toe, recht aan*' is referred to as questionnaire A, the other questionnaire as B. The text refers to the results of questionnaire B. If the results of questionnaire A are discussed this is stated explicitly.

Awareness of the rights

Of the respondents, 98% were aware that children have rights and 58% were aware that there is a Convention on the Rights of the Child, while 33% had heard about the convention at school, 31% on television and 15% via a newspaper.

The least well-known of all the rights listed were the right to information and the right to extra assistance for children who come into contact with the law. Yet 75% of the respondents still knew that children have these rights. The right to education was best known (98%), followed by the right to health and the right to love and care (both 95%). Below are the various percentages for each of the rights.

Education	98%
Health	95%
Care and love	95%
Healthy food	94%
Protection against abuse	94%
All children are equal	91%
Extra protection for the handicapped	89%
Own opinion	88%
Play	86%
Protection against child labour	82%
Protection from armed conflict	78%
Gathering	77%
Extra protection for refugees	76%
Information	75%
Right to assistance for those who come into contact with the law	75%

After the Dutch government had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the government conducted an information campaign. The campaign 'By talking you can do yourself justice' was aimed at bringing the Convention to the attention of young people and adults. Questionnaire A shows that 34% of young people had heard or seen something of the campaign. However, the interviews showed that very few of the youngsters knew exactly what the campaign was about.

The theme of 'rights' appealed to these young people and they were interested in more information. But they do want this information supplied in a way that appeals to them. This sparked the suggestion of an Internet website.

Important rights

The young people were then asked which of the rights they considered the most important. The percentages indicate how many of the young people listed the particular right. The right to healthy food came first in both questionnaires. The assessment of the other rights differs. This will be partly due to the fact that questionnaire B allowed for only three rights to be marked as important, while questionnaire A gave no maximum.

	Questionnaire B	A
Healthy food	16%	32%
Health care	13%	19%
Life and development		18%
No abuse	13%	16%
Care and love	12%	
Everyone is equal	11%	3%
Education	10%	26%
No armed conflict	7%	
No child labour	5%	
Own opinion	4%	38%
Play	3%	
All measures in the interest of the child	2%	3%
Information	1%	
Aid refugee children	1%	
Aid in criminal law	1%	

To the question of which three rights should be given more attention in the Netherlands, 21% responded that the right to equal treatment could be complied with more effectively, 14% wanted more attention for child abuse and 13% felt adults should listen to the opinions of children more, while 9% asked for more attention for the protection of refugee children.

All children are equal	21%
No abuse	14%
Own opinion	13%
Aid refugee children	9%
Aid disabled children	8%
Aid in criminal law	8%
Play	5%
No child labour	3%
No armed conflict	3%
Information	3%
Care and love	3%
Healthy food	2%
Health care	2%
Education	1%

During the interviews with the young people, it became clear that the position of refugee children was a much discussed subject. The youngsters unanimously felt the Dutch government should improve their position. They were reasonably well-informed, as refugee care was the main topic of conversation in the Netherlands in the period when the interviews were conducted.

Education (1%), healthy food (2%) and good health care (2%) are apparently not lacking in the Netherlands, since only a minimum percentage of the young people mentioned those as areas requiring attention.

Standing up for your rights

The question of whether a young person had ever had cause to stand up for one of their rights met with a positive response from 35%. Their own opinion and equal rights for all children once again scored high marks (15%), while 9% had had reason to stand up for their right to play and protection from abuse.

Of those who had had to defend their rights, 25% did not ask for assistance, 51% discussed their problem with their parents and 26% went to their friends. Professional organisations, such as a Youth Advice Centre (2%) or a Children's Legal Advice centre (3%) were approached for assistance less frequently. The question remains of course whether the problems required such a move or whether the young people knew where to find these organisations.

The child's helpline (Kindertelefoon) received most of the requests for assistance: 8% contacted them.

The assistance worked for 53% of the young people, while 31% said it had helped a little and 15% said it had been no help at all.

If youngsters have a problem, 75% said they would talk to their parents, 50% ask their friends for help, and 26% go to other members of the family. The results of questionnaire A paint a similar picture: 66% go to their parents and 43% talk to their friends.

A total of 3% of young people feel they have nowhere to go with their problems, 67% feel they always have somewhere to go, while 28% sometimes do and sometimes don't. All these results show that parents and friends play an important role in discussing and solving problems.

The young people were also asked whether they feel that children, just like adults, should be able to go to court if they feel their rights are being violated. In questionnaire B, 82% felt this option should be available. Of the respondents to questionnaire A, 75% believed young people should be able to go to court themselves, 16% didn't know and 9% does not believe this should be an option. More than 75% of Dutch youngsters therefore believe that they should be able to go to court. This supports the view of the Dutch NGO Coalition for Children's Rights, which also advocates access to the courts for minors.

Having a say and being taken seriously

The responses to the questionnaires show that Dutch youngsters negotiate a lot with their parents. Religion (57% say they can discuss the subject) is the least subject to negotiation, but it is possible that many children failed to give an answer on the subject because their household is not religious. The amount of pocket money is subject to negotiation in 68% of cases. Children have the greatest say in their choice of clothing:

91% has a say on the subject. These are the full results:

Clothing/appearance	91%
School selection	88%
Watching TV	86%
(Boy/girl) friends	82%
Food	81%
Holiday	81%
Bedtime	77%
Pocket money	68%
Religion	57%

The youngsters are less satisfied about their influence on issues at school; 12% feel they have enough influence, while 60% say they are neither satisfied nor unsatisfied and 24% feel they definitely should have a greater say in school.

The questionnaires reveal that young people also want a say on matters in their neighbourhood: 30% say they want more influence. Almost half (48%) is neither satisfied nor unsatisfied and 19% feel they have enough influence. Young people want to have a say on places to hang out (34%), play areas (30%), activities in the neighbourhood centre (19%) and cars in the street (18%), while 7% gave no answer to this question.

And last but not least, the question was asked whether young people feel adults take them seriously. No, said 8% in questionnaire B and 10% in questionnaire A. Sometimes, was the response from 66% in questionnaire B and 56% in A. A yes came from 24% in B and 28% in A.

The interviews with youngsters showed that many adults have a limited perception of participation. Some adults believe that young people having a chance to voice their opinion is enough. But these young people indicated clearly that they want adults to listen more to what they have to say and also do something about what the young people are saying.

Conclusion

The responses to the questionnaires show a picture of Dutch young people who are quite well aware of the existence of the rights of children. School (33%) and television (31%) have contributed in particular in this respect.

The right that requires most attention in the Netherlands is the right to equal treatment (21%). The protection against child abuse (14%) and the right to have an opinion (13%) also deserve more attention. Only a 35% minority had to defend their rights at some point. Voicing their own opinion (28%) and the right to equal treatment (15%) scored high in that context. More than 75% of the youngsters felt that minors, like adults, should have their own access to the courts.

Dutch young people seem to have a reasonable amount of say at home. For the majority, all subjects are open to discussion. It seems we can rightly speak of negotiation households in the Netherlands. But young people are less satisfied with their influence on matters at school and in their neighbourhood. Three-quarters of young people feel their influence is insufficient or non-existent. And this while almost all

(93%) say they want to participate in discussions about issues in their neighbourhood. Young people feel they are not being taken seriously. Three-quarters feel adults should listen to young people more.

The results of a small study, conducted by Unicef, confirm the above results. Ninety percent of the children who completed the questionnaire indicate a desire to know more about children's rights. This supports the Kinderrechtencollectief's recommendation to continue the information campaign (see section 1.1 of the NGO report). The results of this study are enclosed as an addendum.

QUESTIONNAIRE A: Right on

What follows is an extract of the questionnaire that goes with the booklet "Recht toe, recht aan" (Right on). Answers given by children to the following questions are used in the report "Speak out on your rights".

You have read something about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and seen the summary at the back of the booklet.

Please answer the following questions:

1. *Your rights*

1. What do you think of the Convention?

Very good/Good/It is all right/Not very good/Bad

2. Why?

3. Do you now know what your rights are?

Very well/Well/A little/No

4. What is the difference between a right and a duty according to you?

5. Do you find the Convention useful?

6. Which rights from the Convention are very important to you and why?

7. What else do you want to say about the Convention?

The Convention requires the government to give information about the rights of the child. Therefore, in 1996 the government launched a nationally organised information campaign with the slogan 'By talking you can do yourself justice'. A booklet was made about the Convention. In, for example, *Donald Duck* magazine there were advertisements. On TV and radio spots were broadcasted.

8. Have you heard or seen anything from the campaign?

9. If yes, what did you think of the campaign?

Very good/Good/It is all right/Not very good/Bad

10. Have you read the booklet 'By talking you can do yourself justice'?

11. Did a teacher at school tell you anything about the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

12. Do you think many children have heard of the campaign?
13. Did the campaign have success?
14. Have you ever been to the Festival on the Rights of the Child that is being held every year in October?
15. Do you ever talk with other children about the rights of the child?
16. How often do you talk with other children about your rights?
Often/Regularly/Sometimes
17. If not, why?

2. Standing up for your rights

18. What do you think of the fact that in court proceedings you can talk to the judge about matters that concern you not until you are twelve years old?
Very good/Good/It is all right/Not very good/Bad
19. Children should be able to go to court for themselves. I:
Agree/Do not know/Do not agree

3. Asking for help

20. Who do you talk to if you have problems?
21. Have you ever been to a Children's Legal Advice Centre, a Youth Advice Centre or a Youth Information Centre?
22. If yes, has that helped you solve your problem?
Yes, because... /No, because.....
23. Have you ever called the child's helpline?
24. Did that help you?
25. Do you feel you can always go somewhere with your problems?

4. Participation

26. What are your experiences with participation?
At home... At school... In your town.... In a residential institution....

27. Do you feel adults take you seriously?

28. Explain why.

5. Doing wrong

29. Imagine you have broken the law. What do you think of serving an alternative punishment, like cleaning buses, instead of going to prison?

Very good/Good/It is all right/Not very good/Bad

30. Would you choose for alternative punishment?

31. Why?

32. Do you think youngsters who serve alternative punishments will, next time, break the law less easily?

6. Your rights at home

33. If you have problems with your parents, where would you go for help?

Praat mee over je rechten!

In het Verdrag inzake de Rechten van het Kind staat dat iedereen onder de 18 jaar een kind is. Het Verdrag geldt dus ook voor jongeren! Vul dit in als je tussen de 12 en 18 jaar bent.

1. Wist jij dat kinderen rechten hebben?

☐ ja ☐ nee

2. Wist jij dat er een Verdrag inzake de Rechten van het Kind bestaat?

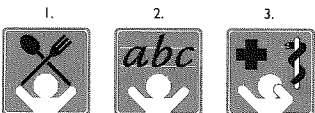
☐ ja ☐ nee

2a. Hoe wist je dat?

☐ school ☐ krant ☐ internet ☐ bekenden
☐ bibliotheek ☐ tijdschrift ☐ tv ☐ anders

Hieronder staan rechten uit het Verdrag.

3. Wist jij dat kinderen deze rechten hebben?



1. Ieder kind heeft recht op genoeg te eten

☐ ja ☐ nee

2. Ieder kind heeft recht om naar school te gaan

☐ ja ☐ nee

3. Ieder kind heeft recht op gezondheid

☐ ja ☐ nee



4. Ieder kind heeft recht om te spelen

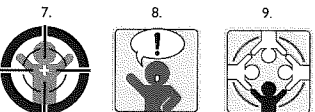
☐ ja ☐ nee

5. Geen enkel kind hoeft te werken

☐ ja ☐ nee

6. Geen enkel kind mag mishandeld worden

☐ ja ☐ nee



7. Geen enkel kind mag slachtoffer worden van oorlog

☐ ja ☐ nee

8. Kinderen mogen hun mening zeggen

☐ ja ☐ nee

9. Kinderen mogen bij elkaar komen met wie ze willen

☐ ja ☐ nee



10. Kinderen hebben recht op informatie

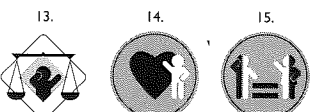
☐ ja ☐ nee

11. Vluchtelingenkinderen hebben recht op extra hulp

☐ ja ☐ nee

12. Kinderen met een handicap hebben recht op extra hulp

☐ ja ☐ nee



13. Kinderen die in contact komen met politie hebben recht op hulp

☐ ja ☐ nee

14. Alle kinderen hebben recht op zorg en liefde

☐ ja ☐ nee

15. Alle kinderen zijn gelijk

☐ ja ☐ nee

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De rechten die bij vraag 3 vermeld staan, gelden ook in Nederland.

4. Noem 3 rechten die jij het belangrijkst vindt. Kies uit de rechten van vraag 3 en schrijf de nummers op.

☐ ☐ ☐

5. Aan welk recht (zie vraag 3) vind jij dat er in Nederland niet genoeg aandacht besteed wordt? Noem er drie en schrijf de nummers op.

☐ ☐ ☐

6. Heb je weleens op moeten komen voor één van deze rechten?

☐ ja ☐ nee

6a. Zo ja, welke dan? Noem het nummer!

☐ ☐ ☐

6b. Bij wie heb je toen hulp gevraagd?

☐ bij mijn ouders/verzorgers
☐ bij mijn zus/broer/andere familie
☐ bij mijn vrienden
☐ op school
☐ bij het JAC (Jongeren Advies Centrum)
☐ bij het JIP (Jongeren Informatie Punt)
☐ bij de Kinderrechtswinkel
☐ bij de Kinder telefoon
☐ ik heb geen hulp gevraagd
☐ bij iemand anders

6c. Heb je iets aan die hulp gehad?

☐ ja ☐ een beetje ☐ nee

7. Stel je hebt een probleem. Met wie zou je dan praten?

☐ met mijn ouders/verzorgers
☐ met mijn zus/broer/andere familie
☐ met mijn vrienden
☐ op school met een leraar/lerares/vertrouwenspersoon
☐ met het JAC (Jongeren Advies Centrum)
☐ met het JIP (Jongeren Informatie Punt)
☐ met de Kinderrechtswinkel
☐ met de Kinder telefoon
☐ ik zou met niemand praten
☐ met iemand anders

8. Vind je dat je altijd ergens terecht kunt met jouw problemen?

☐ ja ☐ soms wel / soms niet ☐ nee

9. Volwassenen kunnen naar de rechter al ze op willen komen voor hun rechten. Vind je dat kinderen ook zelf naar de rechter moeten kunnen stappen?

☐ ja ☐ nee

10. Mag jij thuis meepraten/meebeslissen over?

☐ bedtijd ☐ eten ☐ schoolkeuze
☐ zakgeld ☐ vakantie ☐ vriend(in)
☐ tv kijken ☐ geloof ☐ kleding/uitertij

11. Heb je het idee dat je op school invloed hebt op de gang van zaken?

☐ niet genoeg ☐ gaat wel ☐ vaak genoeg

12. Heb je het idee dat je in je buurt kunt meepraten/meebeslissen?

☐ niet genoeg ☐ gaat wel ☐ vaak genoeg

13. Waarover zou je in je buurt mee willen praten/beslissen?

☐ activiteiten in het buurthuis ☐ speelruimte
☐ auto's in de straat ☐ hangplekken ☐ anders

14. Heb je het gevoel dat volwassenen kinderen serieus nemen?

☐ ja ☐ soms ☐ nee

Wil je nog iets kwijt over het Verdrag of over je rechten?

Ben je
☐ jongen ☐ meisje leeftijd

Op welke school zit je?
☐ basisschool ☐ vbo ☐ mavo ☐ havo ☐ vwo

Dit is een enquête van het Kinderrechtencollectief (KRC) in het KRC werken samen Defence for Children International, Unicef, NIZW en de Nederlandse Kinderrechtswinkels.

Stuur deze enquête voor 4 december naar: het Kinderrechtencollectief, p/a Unicef, Antwoordnummer 10650, 2501 WB Den Haag.

Onder de inzendingen verloten we 5 CD-bonnen van f50,-! Wil je meedingen naar de CD-bon vul dan hieronder je volledige adres in:

Naam:

Adres:

Plaats:

Postcode:

Telefoonnummer:

Vul in, stuur op en maak kans op een CD-bon

QUESTIONNAIRE B: Have a say in your rights!

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that everyone under the age of 18 is a child. So this Convention also applies to young people! Complete this form if you are between 12 and 18 years of age.

1. Did you know that children have rights?

Yes No

2. Did you know there is a Convention on the Rights of the Child?

2a How did you know?

<input type="checkbox"/> School	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet	<input type="checkbox"/> Friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine	<input type="checkbox"/> TV	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Below you will find the rights outlined in the Convention

3. Did you know children have these rights?

- ☐ Every child has the right to sufficient and healthy food
- ☐ Every child has a right to go to school
- ☐ Every child has a right to health care
- ☐ Every child has a right to play
- ☐ No child has to work
- ☐ No child should be abused
- ☐ No child should be the victim of a war
- ☐ Children are allowed to voice their opinion
- ☐ Children are allowed to mix with whomever they choose
- ☐ Children have a right to information
- ☐ Refugee children have the right to extra help
- ☐ Children with a handicap have the right to extra help
- ☐ Children who come into contact with the police have a right to assistance
- ☐ All children have a right to care and love
- ☐ All children are equal

All rights listed under 3 also apply in the Netherlands

- 4. Name the three rights that you believe are the most important.
Choose from the rights listed in question 3 and write down the numbers.
- 5. Which of the rights (see question 3) do you believe is not given enough attention in the Netherlands? Choose three and write down the numbers.
- 6. Have you ever had to defend one of these rights?

6a. If so, name the number.

6b. Who did you go to for assistance?

- ☐ My parents/carers
- ☐ My sister/brother/other relatives
- ☐ My friends
- ☐ My school
- ☐ The JAC (Youth Advice Centre)
- ☐ The JIP (Youth Information Centre)
- ☐ De Kinderrechtswinkel (the Children's legal aid centres)
- ☐ Kindertelefoon (children's help line)
- ☐ I did not ask for help
- ☐ Someone else.....

6c. Was this assistance any help?

Yes A little No

7. Suppose you have a problem, who would you talk to?

- ☐ My parents/carers
- ☐ My sister/brother/other relatives
- ☐ My friends
- ☐ My school, with a teacher/mentor/other person I trust
- ☐ The JAC (Youth Advice Centre)
- ☐ The JIP (Youth Information Centre)
- ☐ De Kinderrechtswinkel (the Children's legal aid centres)
- ☐ Kindertelefoon (children's help line)
- ☐ I wouldn't talk to anyone
- ☐ Someone else.....

8. Do you feel there is always someone to talk to about your problems?

Yes Sometimes/sometimes not No

9. Adults can go to court if they wish to defend their rights. Do you believe children should also be able to go to court for themselves?

10. Do you have a say at home in decisions about:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedtime | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating | <input type="checkbox"/> School selection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket money | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes/looks |

11. Do you feel you have an influence on what happens at school?
not enough some often enough

12. Do you feel you have a say in what happens in your neighbourhood?

not enough some often enough

13. What subjects would you like to have a say in your neighbourhood?

- ☐ Activities in the neighbourhood centre
- ☐ Play areas
- ☐ Cars in the street
- ☐ Areas to hang around
- ☐ Other

14. Do you have the feeling that adults take children seriously?

Yes Sometimes No

Is there anything else you would like to say about the Convention or about your rights?

Are you:

Boy Girl Age

What school do you attend?

- ☐ Junior school
- ☐ VBO (preparatory vocational education)
- ☐ MAVO (lower general secondary education)
- ☐ HAVO (higher general secondary education)
- ☐ VWO (pre-university education)

This is a questionnaire from the Children's Rights Collective (KRC). The KRC is a cooperative venture of Children International, Unicef, NIZW, and the Dutch Children's legal aid centres.

Sent this questionnaire, before 4 December, to:

*Kinderrechtencollectief, c/o Unicef,
Antwoordnummer (freepost) 10650
2501 WB The Hague*

We will draw five names from the questionnaires sent in and the winners will receive a CD voucher for NLG 50. If you want a chance to win the CD voucher fill in your full name and address below:

Name

Address

City

ADDENDUM

National School Presentation Campaign

On 20 November 1998, at more than 750 schools for junior education, pupils between 10 and 12 years of age in the upper years gave presentations. UNICEF Nederland had compiled a package on the Rights of the Child specifically for this day. A mailing beforehand asked schools to participate in the presentation campaign. On 20 November, as many classrooms as possible in the upper years were supposed to have a pupil giving a presentation for his fellow pupils on the rights of the child. More than 1,000 requests for presentation packages were received.

The package also contained a questionnaire, which was completed and sent in by 11,000 pupils aged between 10 and 12. The pupils completed the form after hearing the presentation from their fellow pupil.

The results of the questionnaire show that almost 96% of all pupils knew that children's rights existed. They had found out about this primarily via radio and television (59%), school (43%) and family (33%). A large majority of 82% believes children are receiving insufficient information on these rights and 90% wants to know more on the subject. Almost half (49%) would prefer to learn about their rights via school. But organisations such as UNICEF can also contribute (37%).

On a worldwide level, more action should be taken on the right to grow up with your family (58%), the right to voice your opinion and gather information (57%) and the right to education (44%).

The rights of children are also violated in the Netherlands. Pupils get most angry about discrimination (30%).

Below are the full results of this questionnaire:

Total number of questionnaires		100%
Total number of questionnaires entered	3,360	
Total number of girls entered	1,673	49.8%
Total number of boys entered	1,687	50.2%

QUESTION 1

Before the presentation in class, did you know that children's rights existed?

Yes	3,178	94.6%	
No	182	5.4%	
Yes, via	Family	1,059	33% (multiple answers possible)
	Friends	264	8%
	Government	102	3%
	School/teacher	1,363	43%
	Radio/television	1,883	59%
	Organisations like Unicef	784	25%
	Other	156	5%

QUESTION 2

Do you think children in the Netherlands receive effective information on their rights?

Yes, enough	329	17%
No, not enough	1,582	82%
Reasonable, should be more	25	1%
Reasonable, should be less	0	0
Total	1,936	100%

QUESTION 3

Fortunately, most children in the Netherlands are doing well. Yet there are still children in our country that are having a hard time. Can you describe a situation that can make you very angry? And which of the children's rights would this involve? (open question)

Right to protection against.....

Abuse	241	7%
Violence and war	76	2%
Sexual abuse	52	2%
Child labour	200	6%
Discrimination	1,011	30%
Bullying	161	5%

Right to extra protection for.....

Refugee children	116	4%
Handicapped children	302	9%

Right to....

Grow up with your family	76	2%
To voice/express your opinion	97	3%
A safe and healthy life	80	2%
Education	141	4%
Play and leisure activities	172	5%
Other	89	3%
No response	546	16%

THE DUTCH NGO COALITION FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The Kinderrechtencollectief (KRC) was set up by the following organisations:

Defence for Children International (DCI) was founded during the International Year of the Child (1979) exclusively to promote and protect the rights of the child. DCI has had a considerable role in the drafting process of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. DCI is an international non-governmental organisation whose action in the field is carried out through sections in over 60 countries. These sections participate actively in the mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Convention by the State Parties. DCI's main activities are investigation, information, direct actions and advocacy. The main fields of interest are international standards on children's rights, juvenile justice, trafficking and sale of children, child labour and sexual exploitation of children and children in armed conflicts.

The Dutch section of DCI, founded in 1984, has been occupied with topics as child abduction, juvenile justice, genital mutilation of girls, minor refugees and child sex-tourism.

The Netherlands Institute of Care and Welfare (NIZW) is an independent institute for renewal and improvement that services organisations in the care and welfare sector. The NIZW works in close cooperation with those organisations to develop methods, organize work conferences, design quality improving instruments, and seek adequate forms of cooperation between organisations. The results and experiences are subsequently published in books and newsletters and presented through conferences and video's.

Apart from renewal and improvement, the institute aims at strengthening the sector as a whole, a task entrusted primarily to the Centre for Professional and Vocational Training, *Centrum voor Beroeps- en Opleidingsvraagstukken* and the Information Centre for Care and Welfare, *Informatiecentrum Zorg en Welzijn*.

The NIZW activities focus on providing facilities for the elderly, home care, disabled people, young people, shelters and local social services, as well as the individuals and organisations that are closely involved. All in all, more than 400,000 professionals and many volunteers are active in this sector. And it is this segment of the work force that the NIZW seeks to service.

UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, helps children through community-based services in the field of primary health care, education, food and safe water in over 140 countries. The Netherlands Committee for UNICEF provides the Dutch public with information about UNICEF and about the developing world and raises funds to support development projects.

Dutch Children's Rights Shops are independent organisations that give information, advice and assistance to children who have questions about their rights. They hold office hours on their own premises and in juvenile prisons. In addition to providing advice on a one to one basis, the Child Law Advice Centres promote knowledge of children's rights among children, parents, caretakers, teachers and politicians. They do this by providing information about children's rights in schools and training colleges and by writing articles and information pamphlets for young people. They also prepare position papers on government reports, notices and draft laws, basing their comments on their practical experience and relevant provisions of human rights treaties.

Colophon

Children's Rights as a Mirror of Dutch Society
The NGO report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in The Netherlands, including the report on the consultation of young people in the Netherlands on their rights.

Translation Marieke Piggott and Sarah Alexander

This is a publication of the Kinderrechtencollectief, the Dutch NGO Coalition of Children's Rights

The Dutch NGO Coalition for Children's Rights is established by:

- Defence for Children International Section The Netherlands
- UNICEF The Netherlands
- Netherlands Institute of Care and Welfare
- Dutch Association of Children's Rights Shops

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