

Appendix Three: Letter template

Date:

Dear (Name of Contact),

I am an advocate /social worker/support worker for (Child's name). I am writing to highlight our multiple concerns in relation to the child's involvement and participation in decisions being made about their care and protection.

(Child's name) should enjoy their rights as laid out in the [relevant local legislation] (e.g., Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995) and the UNCRC without discrimination (Article 1 and 2 of the UNCRC). We are of the opinion that there have been multiple significant breaches of their rights, with those most pressing outlined below;

[Provide a list of rights that have been breached in both the local legislation and UNCRC ensuring to provide evidence under each breach (sometimes there will be similar rights in local legislation and UNCRC which can be put together before the description – see below for example]

EXAMPLE

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995- Article 26 (2) - Before making any decision with respect to a child whom it is looking after, or proposing to look after, an authority shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child.

UNCRC Article 12 (respect for the views of the child) - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

(Child's name) has not been afforded the opportunity to participate in relevant decisions and consequently their wishes and feelings have not been taken into consideration when decisions were made about their care and protection. This has left (child's name) feeling frustrated and disempowered.

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 Article 3 – The child’s welfare to be a paramount consideration.

UNCRC Article 3 – The interests of children and young people should be thought about at all levels of society, and that their rights should be respected by people in power.

It is our concern that decisions made are not being in the best interests of (young person’s name).
Decisions have been made, and continue to be made without considering the views, wishes and feelings of (child’s name)

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter via email (email address) once received. We would appreciate a timely response to this matter.

Kind Regards

(Sign name)

(Print name)