

**Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa**

Presentation to the 73rd UN CRC session in Geneva

## **13-30 September 2016**

## **Information pack for stakeholders and supporters of ACYA**

### **Overview**

2016 is the year in which Action for Children and Youth Aoteroa (ACYA) and the NZ Government report on progress towards implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC). ACYA presented its Alternative Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) in a closed pre-Session hearing in February, 2016.

In August 2016, ACYA submitted the following reports to the Committee:

*Walk for a bit in my shoes … it isn’t actually that easy*

*Counting what matters – valuing and making visible the rights of children with disabilities*

*Children’s rights and climate change*

*Our voices, our rights –* a report on children’s voices prepared for ACYA by UNICEF NZ and Save the Children NZ.

These reports provide supplementary information to the Committee on New Zealand’s compliance with UNCROC and how this is being implemented.

This brief document provides ACYA’s stakeholders and supporters with background information on ACYA’s role and their responsibilities to the Committee during this session.

The document includes:

* Frequently asked questions
* News story (to be used in newsletters etc. over the next week)
* Suggested social media if you would like to show support to ACYA during this time.

**Frequently asked questions**

1. **Who are ACYA?**

ACYA is a coalition of non-Governmental organisations, families and individuals. They promote the rights and wellbeing of our children and youth through advocacy and education using the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) and other international human rights instruments.

1. **What is ACYA’s role?**

ACYA prepares and presents the national civil society alternative reports about the NZ Government compliance with UNCROC to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee).

These reports aim to present information from as wide a range of individuals and organisations as possible. They aim to alert the Committee to breaches of rights that the NZ Government reports do not acknowledge or reference.

They produce working papers and run workshops looking at the various rights protected by UNCROC.

1. **What is the purpose of the trip to Geneva?**

Every five years the New Zealand Government lodges a report with the UNCROC. These reports must explain how the UNCROC is being implemented in New Zealand.

The last Government Report was submitted in December, 2015 with additional information submitted in March 2016. A delegation representing the New Zealand Government will be examined on this report in front of the Committee in Geneva on 15th and 16th September, 2016.

ACYA has submitted supplementary information and reports for the Committee to consider during the Session in Geneva to assist constructive dialogue with the New Zealand Government.

1. **How long has ACYA reported to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for?**

ACYA has been reporting on the New Zealand Government to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child since 1997.

1. **Who else is reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva?**

A delegation representing the New Zealand Government will be attending. Representatives from a number of other countries will also be presenting during this session.

**News Story [for use in your own and your networks’ communication]**

Delegates from the New Zealand Government have travelled to Geneva this week to officially report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (the UN Committee) about how New Zealand’s is implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC). The Session hearing takes place on 15th and 16th September.

Representatives from Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA) have been invited as observers to listen to the Session where the UN Committee are expected to interrogate the Government about their performance since it’s last report five years ago.

UNCROC is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.

ACYA spokeswoman Andrea Jamison said the ACYA reports and supplementary information show that New Zealand’s child poverty and child neglect issues are growing, with more in poverty, more homeless and more children being hurt and killed by those looking after them.

**Social Media**

### **Twitter**

Did you know NZ are presenting to the UN on #childrights this week? Important work being done here by orgs like ACYA #uncroc

Report on NZ child right’s performance being presented to UN today. Great to see small orgs like ACYA doing big things #uncroc

### **Facebook**

Did you know that this week a NZ organisation is reporting to the United Nations on our Government’s performance at tackling children and young people’s rights and issues? Find out more about ACYA and their work here. [www.acya.org.nz](http://www.acya.org.nz)

We look forward to hearing about the outcomes of the session at the United Nations.

Child poverty is getting worse and worse in New Zealand as more live in poverty, more are homeless and more children being hurt and killed by those looking after them. This week the New Zealand Government is presenting to the United Nations in Switzerland on their performance in this area. A small, dedicated organisation called ACYA are going with them to assist the UN Committee in their constructive conversations with the NZ Government.