



Hearing the Voice of the Child – Why does it scare us so much?

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Ombudsman for Children
Educate Together
Conference 2016
25/11/16



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Ombudsman for Children

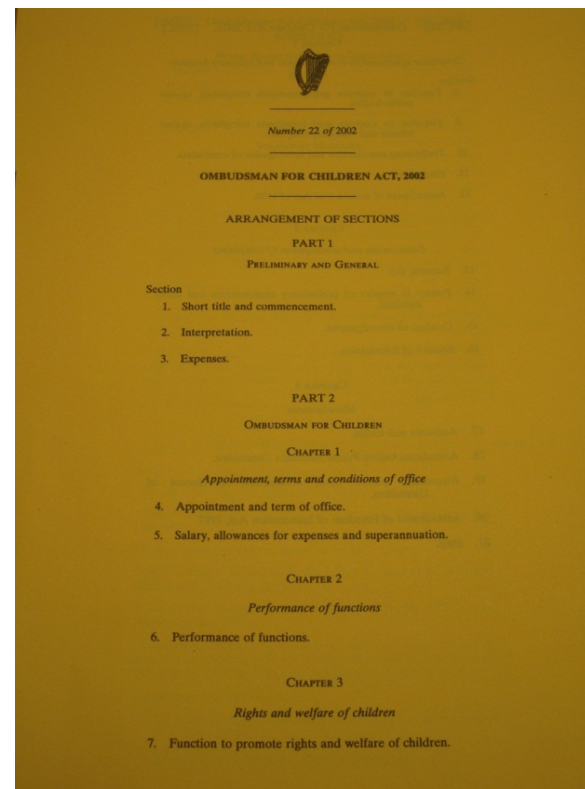
Niall Muldoon



Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002

Ombudsman for Children:

- **Independent**
- **Appointed by President**
- **Reports to Oireachtas**
- **Two terms of 6 years**



The image shows the front cover of the Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002. At the top center is the Irish harp. Below it, the text 'Number 22 of 2002' is printed. The title 'OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN ACT, 2002' is centered. Below the title is the 'ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS'. The document is divided into 'PART 1' (Preliminary and General) and 'PART 2' (Ombudsman for Children). 'PART 1' includes 'CHAPTER 1' (Appointment, terms and conditions of office) and 'CHAPTER 2' (Performance of functions). 'PART 2' includes 'CHAPTER 3' (Rights and welfare of children). The sections are listed with their corresponding numbers and titles.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS	
PART 1	
PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL	
Section	
1.	Short title and commencement.
2.	Interpretation.
3.	Expenses.
PART 2	
OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN	
CHAPTER 1	
<i>Appointment, terms and conditions of office</i>	
4.	Appointment and term of office.
5.	Salary, allowances for expenses and superannuation.
CHAPTER 2	
<i>Performance of functions</i>	
6.	Performance of functions.
CHAPTER 3	
<i>Rights and welfare of children</i>	
7.	Function to promote rights and welfare of children.

VISION

We want to see an Ireland **where all children and young people are actively heard and respected** so that they experience **safe, fulfilling and happy everyday lives.**

We will use our **independence** and powers to the fullest extent to bring this about.



What does the OCO do?

Our overall role:

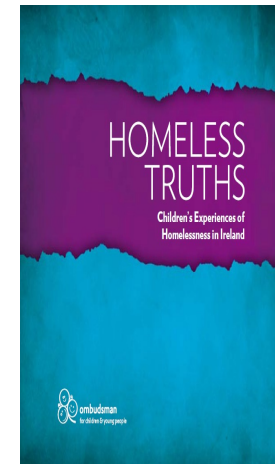
Promote respect for the rights and welfare of children and young people under 18 years old living in Ireland

Our areas of work:

- Investigating complaints
- Giving advice to Government on laws affecting children
- Raising awareness of children's rights
- Hearing and highlighting children's and young people's views



Hearing and Highlighting Children's and Young People's Views



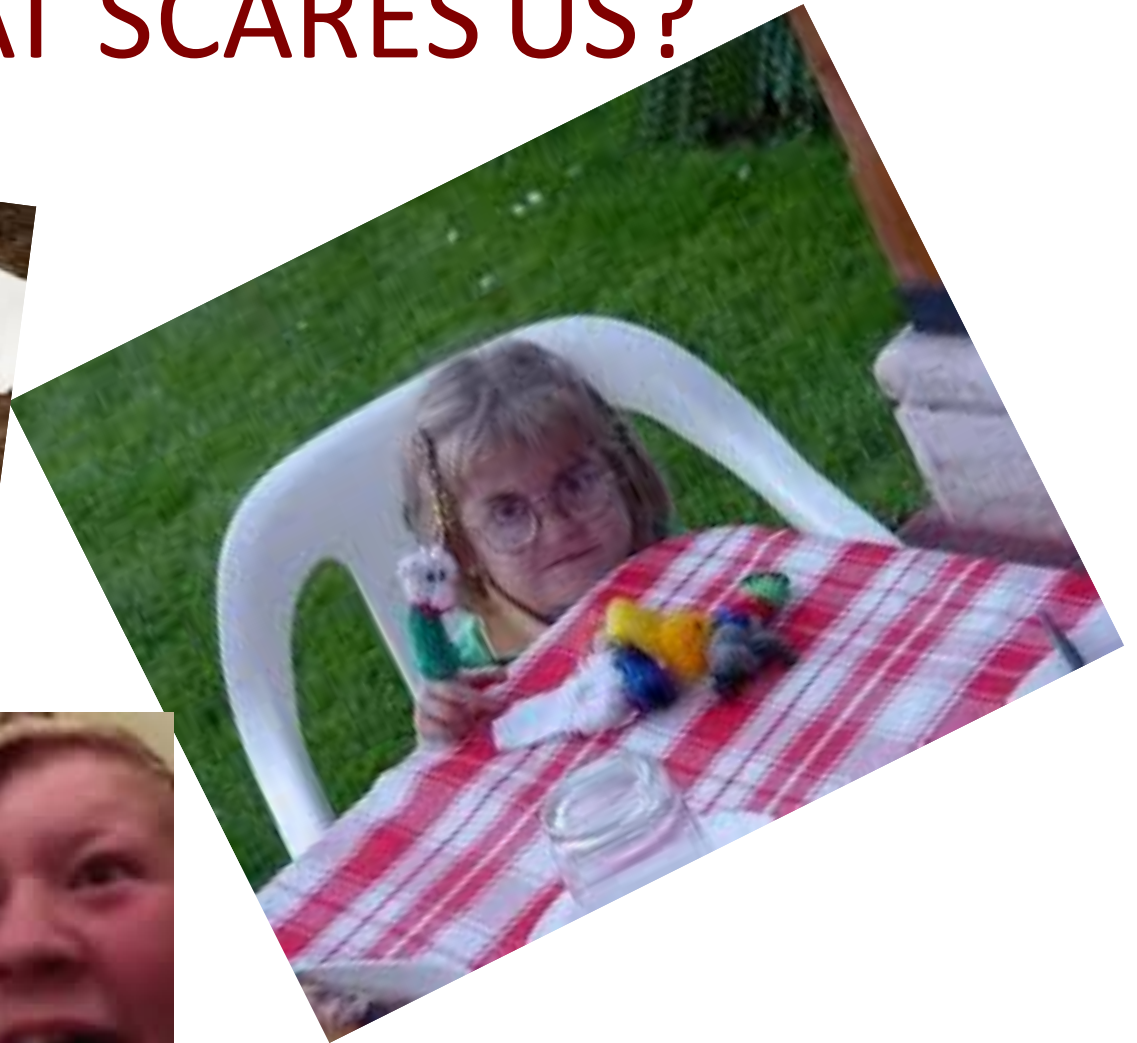
Firstly...



ENOC – Role of Education in States



WHAT IS IT THAT SCARES US?

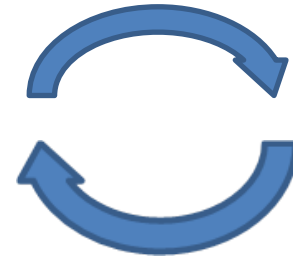


My engagement

- M.Sc = **Action Research** & Grounded Theory to Develop a Relationships and Education Programme for persons with Intellectual Disabilities
- PhD = Phenomenological Analysis and Face to Face Interviews
- 80%/20%

ACTION RESEARCH

- PROBLEM
 - Plan, Act, Reflect, Revise

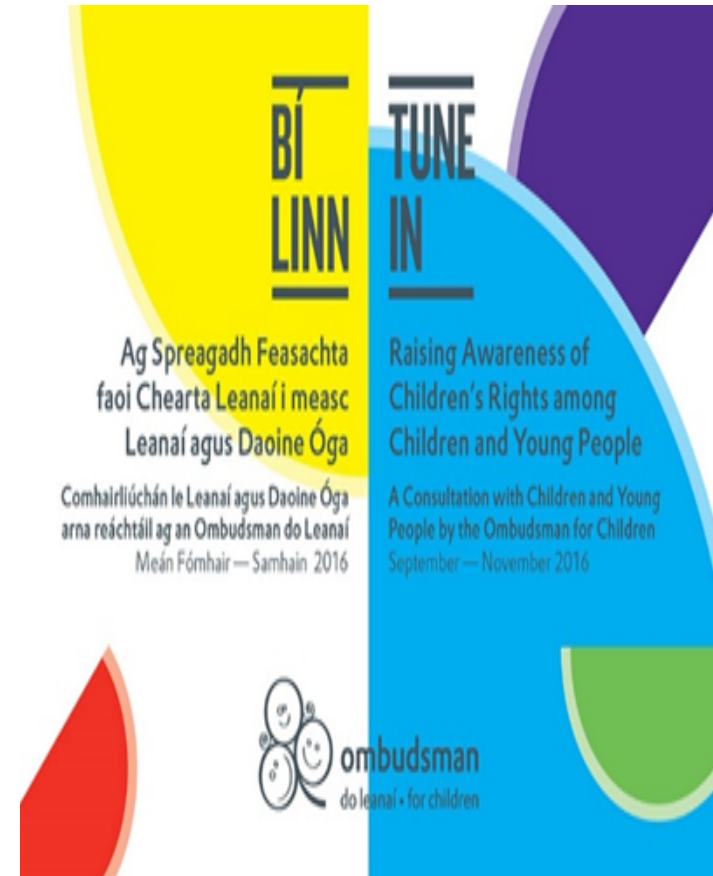
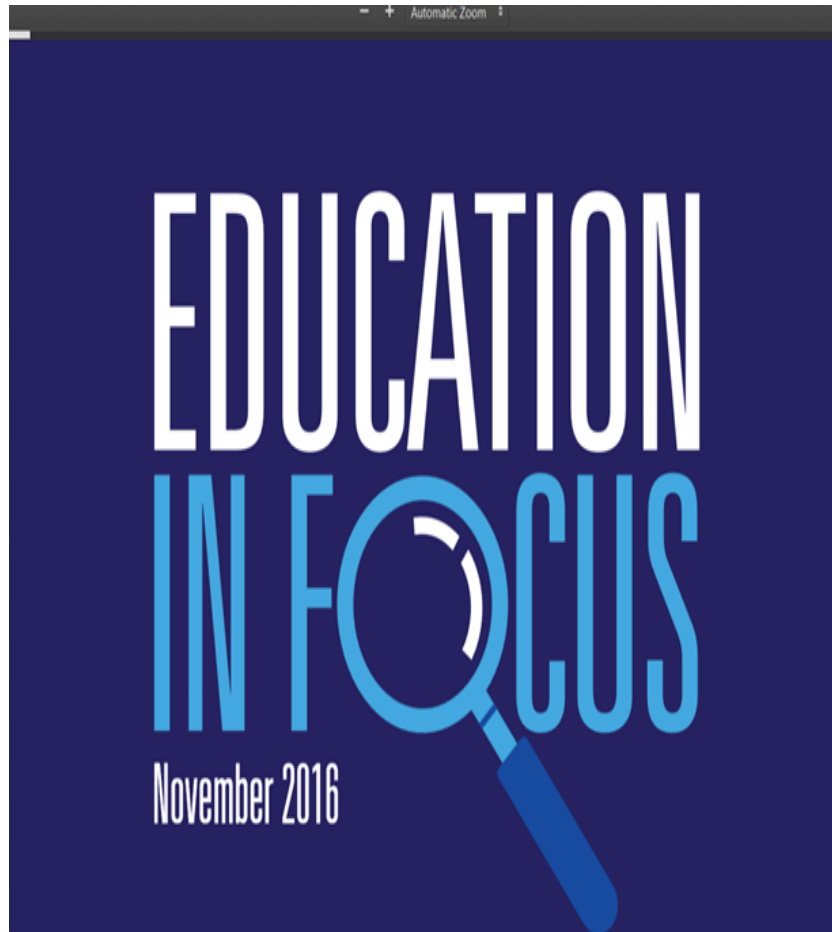


Service User Research Enterprise (SURE)

Kings College, London



OCO – HEARING THE VOICES OF CHILDREN



Hearing the voice of the child in all sectors





Parent and Learner Charter



Article 2 – Non discrimination

- Respect and ensure the rights of each child without discrimination of any kind

Article 3 – Best Interest

- All actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, must ensure that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

Article 12 – Respect for the views of Child

- Children who are capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views in all matters affecting them, with due weight given to age and maturity of the children.

The UN Convention
on the Rights of the
Child

BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
IN THE WORLD
HAS ONE THING
IN COMMON.
THEIR RIGHTS.



PEOPLE



“More group work ... to build up our confidence to talk to new people or to speak out.” (Co Donegal)

“Every child should leave school with self-confidence ... I think they would get that if school focused a bit less on academic work and more on personal growth.” (Co Monaghan)

“Education should teach us more about real-life situations, for example helping or caring for a relative if they are sick or in need.” (Co Kilkenny)

Children
are not things
to be moulded,
but people
to be unfolded.

- Jess Lair





ombudsman
for children • do leanaí

**Further information and
publications:**

www.oco.ie

Freephone 1800 202040

It's Your Right:

www.itsyourright.ie

