Joint Committee on Human Rights report Statement

Tuesday 24 March, 2015

Failure to protect children's human rights is appalling, says The Children's Society

The Joint Committee on Human Rights says the UK's commitment to children's rights don't go far enough. It says child poverty should be prioritised as a human rights issue and migrant children should be able to access legal aid.

Matthew Reed, Chief Executive of The Children's Society, says:

"It is appalling that children's rights including those around immigration and poverty continue to suffer, and we welcome the conclusions of this report which shine a light on these serious issues.

"As the report recognises, without substantial changes in policy, the likelihood of the Government meeting its legal duty to eliminate child poverty by 2020 is unachievable. Estimates show that in the next five years, an additional 700,000 children will be trapped in poverty. To address this, we are urgently calling for the next Government to tackle child poverty by increasing benefits for children at least in line with rises in the cost of living and by extending free school meals to all children in poverty.

"We are deeply worried that legal aid has been scrapped for migrant children who are new to this country, and that the Government is focusing on immigration control instead of the child's needs. Without financial support for legal help, these children may go unrepresented in court and lose access to justice. These vulnerable children must be given access to legal aid.

"Keeping children safe from harm and protecting their human rights should be a top priority for any Government."

-Ends-

For further information, please contact:

Catherine Jones, Senior Media Officer, The Children's Society

0207 841 4420

Catherine.Jones@childrenssociety.org.uk

Related Sectors:

Charities & non-profits ::

Scan Me:

Company Contact: