

Dear Minister Gordon Lyons,

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is a list of the rights for every child up to 18. Government has promised to make these rights a reality for all children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Children have the right to live and develop fully. They should have a secure, stable and safe place to live.

Homelessness, with the uncertainty that it brings, has profound effects on all aspects of a child's early life - physically, emotionally and socially.

18, 567 is the shocking number of children in households which have Homelessness status in NI. Over **5,300** live in temporary accommodation with the rest either living in informal arrangements or in properties it is not reasonable for their household to occupy.

Children also have the right to give our opinion, for adults to listen to it and take it seriously.

So we, the pupils and school communities of **Armagh CBS, John-Paul II and St. Patrick's Primary Schools** call upon the Minister for Communities to act immediately to end this cycle of homelessness and instability for thousands of children.

The key to this housing emergency lies in building more social homes that families can afford.

By signing this letter, we are asking the NI government to urgently address the issue of Child Homelessness here.

The right to family life and a standard of living including a permanent place to live is the basic minimum a child should expect from the state.



John Paul II Primary

