

II. ENSURING EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION: THE CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

The purpose of **part two** of this training is to explore:

1. Conceptual Background to Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC)
2. Why Listen to Children?
3. Nature and Scope of Article 12 CRC
4. Article 12 in Practice
 - a. Family law proceedings
 - b. Criminal Law proceedings
 - c. Administrative proceedings
5. Common Barriers to Participation in practice
6. Sharing experiences about how to implement Article 12 in practice.

1. Conceptual Background to Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC)

Over the past few decades, there has been a heightened awareness globally around the need to include the views of children in decision-making processes, which affect them. In effect, this means that children are being recognised as key stakeholders in such cases, with potentially important information to contribute. This increased recognition concerning the need to actively involve children in decision-making processes affecting them, is in large part owing to the existence of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC). This international legal provision sets a minimum legal standard, which specifically requires that all children have a voice in all matters affecting them, once they are capable of forming views. The fact that it is a legal requirement for countries to implement Article 12 is not the only positive reason for ensuring its effective implementation. Listening to children offers a host of benefits not just to the children themselves but also for society more generally.