

# INTRODUCTION

This report is based on work by the *Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice*.

We work to improve how children (that's everyone under the age of 18) experience the youth justice system. We are part of the University of Strathclyde. We get most of our funding from the Scottish Government.

We have published this child-friendly version of our '*Rights Respecting: Scotland's approach to children in conflict with the law*' report to make sure it is accessible to our younger readers, giving them an understanding of the issues around the justice system in Scotland.

In this report you will read a lot about the things that are wrong at the moment. You will also read that we have ideas about what needs to change, so that we respect the rights of children when they are in conflict with the law.

## **THIS REPORT IS DIVIDED INTO FIVE PARTS, WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**PART 1:** THE MEANING OF WORDS AND PHRASES USED IN THIS REPORT AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

**PART 2:** NUMBERS OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW AND GOING TO CHILDREN'S HEARINGS OR A COURT

**PART 3:** CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW: THE THINGS THAT ARE WRONG AT THE MOMENT

**PART 4:** IDEAS ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE SO THAT WE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

**PART 5:** CONCLUSION

*This report is based on 'Rights Respecting? Scotland's approach to children in conflict with the law' written by Claire Lightowler. Colin Morrison of TASC (Scotland) Ltd turned Claire's ideas into this report for children and young people. Gary Morrison did the design work, and Sarah Ahmad created the graphics throughout.*

*Thank you to the young people of Youth Justice Voices, who took time to give us their views on this report which we hope you agree has significantly improved it.*