# Scotland’s Children’s Parliament launches AI rights resource co-created with young voices



In recent developments, the Children’s Parliament in Scotland has taken a significant step toward integrating children's rights into the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology. The launch of a new eLearning resource titled "Why Children’s Rights Matter: A Resource for Professionals" aims to educate adults who work in AI, digital, and data spaces about the critical importance of children's rights in the design and deployment of AI systems. This initiative, developed in collaboration with the Scottish AI Alliance and The Alan Turing Institute, highlights the essential need for adults in decision-making roles to understand how their actions impact children's lives.

The resource is a product of comprehensive collaboration with children aged 8 to 12 across various Scottish communities, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirlingshire, and Shetland. Sandra Rabbow, the AI project officer at Children’s Parliament, emphasised the value of children's perspectives in shaping AI policies, stating, “The resource was developed as part of our work with children... they had a direct call to action that adults... need to know about children’s human rights.” The emphasis on children's voices reflects a growing acknowledgment that their experiences and expectations are crucial when it comes to the rapidly evolving world of AI.

The eLearning tool comprises reflective modules designed to challenge the prevalent oversight regarding children's rights in AI decision-making. It aims to create a platform through which children's opinions are not just acknowledged but actively incorporated into AI development strategies. This approach is particularly relevant amid growing concerns about the ethical implications of AI, including issues of fairness, bias, and privacy—topics that emerged prominently from workshops conducted with children throughout the project.

These workshops allowed children to engage with concepts of AI and discuss its implications for their rights, focusing on areas such as safety, potential biases in AI, and its role in education. Many participants expressed a desire for AI systems that are not only innovative but also uphold fairness and transparency—qualities that directly affect their well-being and future. This engagement has culminated in a series of "Calls to Action" aimed at guiding adults on how to prioritise children's rights within the realm of AI technologies.

Scotland's broader AI strategy also plays a vital role in this conversation. The strategy underscores the need for ethical and inclusive AI, firmly embedding the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) within the country’s legal framework. By highlighting the unique challenges and opportunities that AI presents for children, the strategy aims to create an environment where children can flourish, ensuring their protection and empowerment amid the technological advancements that shape their lives.

As the discussions surrounding AI continue to develop, the voices of younger generations are becoming increasingly influential. By centring their rights in AI conversations, advocates are not just ensuring protection but are also helping to cultivate a tech landscape that is inclusive and empathetic to the needs of children. The resources created by the Children’s Parliament are designed to help adults navigate this complex landscape, fostering a culture of accountability and responsibility in AI innovation.

The implications of this initiative extend beyond Scotland, serving as a potential model for how children's rights can be integrated into AI considerations globally. As the landscape of technology continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, the inclusion of children's perspectives will be vital in shaping a future where AI serves as a boon rather than a barrier to their rights and well-being.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.digit.fyi/what-do-children-in-scotland-think-of-ai/), [[4]](https://www.scottishai.com/news/exploring-childrens-rights-in-ai)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.digit.fyi/what-do-children-in-scotland-think-of-ai/), [[2]](https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/our-work/exploring-childrens-rights-and-ai/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/news/exploring-childrens-rights-and-ai-what-have-we-learned-so-far/), [[5]](https://www.turing.ac.uk/news/publications/exploring-childrens-rights-and-ai)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-ai-strategy-trustworthy-ethical-inclusive/pages/6/), [[7]](https://www.scottishai.com/children-and-ai)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.digit.fyi/what-do-children-in-scotland-think-of-ai/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/our-work/exploring-childrens-rights-and-ai/> - The Children’s Parliament in Scotland has initiated a project titled 'Exploring Children’s Rights and AI' to understand how children perceive artificial intelligence and its impact on their rights. This project involves workshops with children aged 8-12 from various schools across Scotland, aiming to develop 'Calls to Action' for decision-makers to ensure children's human rights are upheld in AI development and usage. The project is a collaboration with the Scottish AI Alliance and The Alan Turing Institute.
3. <https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/news/exploring-childrens-rights-and-ai-what-have-we-learned-so-far/> - Children’s Parliament has been engaging with children aged 8-12 across Scotland to explore their views on artificial intelligence and its relation to their human rights. Workshops have been conducted in schools in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirlingshire, and Shetland, focusing on themes such as AI in education, fairness, bias, safety, and the future of AI. The project aims to empower children to understand and influence AI's role in their lives, ensuring it aligns with their rights and well-being.
4. <https://www.scottishai.com/news/exploring-childrens-rights-in-ai> - The Scottish AI Alliance, in partnership with Children’s Parliament and The Alan Turing Institute, has launched a project to engage children in Scotland with artificial intelligence. The initiative includes workshops in schools across Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirlingshire, and Shetland, introducing children to AI concepts and discussing its implications for their rights. The project seeks to involve children in Scotland’s AI strategy, ensuring their perspectives are considered in AI development and policy-making.
5. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/news/publications/exploring-childrens-rights-and-ai> - The Alan Turing Institute, in collaboration with Children’s Parliament and the Scottish AI Alliance, has been conducting research to understand children's views on artificial intelligence and its impact on their rights. The project involves workshops with children aged 7-11 in schools across Scotland, exploring themes such as AI in education, fairness, bias, safety, and the future of AI. The findings aim to inform AI development and policy to better align with children's rights and needs.
6. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-ai-strategy-trustworthy-ethical-inclusive/pages/6/> - Scotland's AI Strategy outlines principles for developing trustworthy, ethical, and inclusive AI. Recognising the specific challenges and opportunities AI presents for children, the strategy incorporates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law. It aims to ensure AI benefits children by supporting their development, inclusion, fairness, privacy, safety, transparency, empowerment, and creating an enabling environment for child-centred AI.
7. <https://www.scottishai.com/children-and-ai> - The Scottish AI Alliance, in partnership with Children’s Parliament and The Alan Turing Institute, has launched the 'Children and AI' project. This initiative engages children aged 8-12 from various schools across Scotland to explore their views on artificial intelligence and its impact on their rights. The project includes workshops, surveys, and the development of 'Calls to Action' to ensure AI development and usage uphold children's human rights.