**Observatory on Human Rights of Children**

**Policy Advocacy Competition 2024: About the Competition**

**With the support of the UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF-UK)**

Please ensure you read and understand the documents:

* **Observatory on Human Rights of Children Policy Advocacy Competition 2024: Competition Rules**
* **Observatory on Human Rights of Children Policy Advocacy Competition 2024: Statement of Facts and Law**

These are available at: [**www.swansea.ac.uk/law/observatory/pac24**](http://www.swansea.ac.uk/law/observatory/pac24)

**Introduction**

Policy advocacy to promote government policies to progress children’s rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is key to improving the lives of children.

This **Policy Advocacy Competition** (supported by UNICEF-UK)is an opportunity for teams of studentsto research a policy issue, prepare a briefing for a (fictional) Government Minister and to act as advocates for children’s rights.

**The task**

You will be asked to prepare a written Policy Briefing for presentation to the Jebbrovian Children’s Minister.

You will be representing the position of the Children’s Commissioner for Jebbrovia.

Your briefing should set out the case for removing the defence of ‘justifiable punishment’ which is available to parents and carers with responsibility for a child as a defence to a criminal charge of assault in Jebbrovia.

When preparing your briefing you should take full account of the facts and law set out in the document: **Observatory on Human Rights of Children Policy Advocacy Competition 2024: Statement of Facts and Law**

A limited number of teams will be invited to make online oral presentation to the Jebbrovian Children’s Minsters.

**Participation**

The School of Law at Swansea University invites teams made up of students who are enrolled on a Bachelors or Masters programme of study on **30th April 2024** to participate in the competition.

Some level of legal knowledge will be required, but participation is not restricted to students enrolled on a law programme.

All teams must have the approval of their faculty to participate.

A faculty may give approval to a maximum of two teams.

A university may enter a maximum of two teams.

There is no entry or administration fee for this competition.

**Format**

Students will be asked to put themselves in the position of a ‘Children’s Commissioner’ who is asked to provide written policy advice to a Government Minister on a children’s rights issue. The briefing will be set in a fictional State which is party to the UNCRC.

* The full brief, entry instructions and competition rules will be available in **December 2023.**
* A word limit will apply.
* Registration for the competition will open on **1st February 2024** and will close on **29th March 2024.**
* The written advice will be submitted on or before **30th April 2024.**
* The submissions will be anonymised on receipt and ranked by a panel of 3 judges (ranking criteria will be published with competition rules on 1st January 2024).
* The top eight ranked teams will be announced on **31st July 2024** and will be invited to give a live oral presentation by Zoom (or other suitable media) to a panel of three independent experts on children’s rights.
* The presentation will take place in **September 2024**. A time limit of will apply but teams will be able to use as many speakers as they wish during this time.
* The panel will select the most convincing combination of written advice and presentation as the winner of the **Policy Advocacy Competition.**
* The finalists and winner will be formally announced and congratulated by the speaker at the prestigious **Observatory on Human Rights of Children Annual Lecture** in **November 2024.**

**Timeline summary**

* **December 2023,** full brief, entry instructions, ranking criteria and competition rules will be available online.
* **1st February 2024,** registration opens.
* **29th March 2024,** registration closes.
* **30th April 2024,** last date for submitting written advice.
* **31st July 2024,** top eight ranked teams announced and invited to give a live oral presentation.
* **September 2024,** live oral presentations (winning team notified to all teams).
* **November 2024,** winning team announced at annual lecture.

**Further Information**

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