

Adolescents Questionnaire Results Summary

This survey was carried out on behalf of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. They are producing a report (called General Comment) to set out what governments need to do to make sure that all the rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child are being respected for all adolescents around the world. Once the report is finished, it will provide guidance for every government (except the USA which has not signed up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child) - and they will be expected to take account of it in the way they develop laws, policies and services that affect young people's lives.

This questionnaire for young people aged 10-17 was developed in partnership with adults and young people during a workshop held in CATS 2015.

The questionnaire was then published in English, French and Spanish by Child to Child across social media platforms.

The following is a summary of the results:

Who completed the questionnaire?

In total there were over of 1400 responses.

Of which:

Male	38.6%
Female	58.8%
Other	2.7%

When we asked where respondents lived:

Europe	66.2%
North America	1%
Africa	1.1%
Middle East	0.6%
Asia	31%
Latin America	0.2%

How old are you?

10	22	1.7%
11	78	6.2%
12	136	10.8%
13	244	19.3%
14	207	16.4%
15	209	16.5%
16	157	12.4%
17	165	13.1%
Other	74	5.9%

The Questions.

1. We asked “How do you think people in your community view adolescents?”

Positively	50.2%
Negatively	49.8%

2. Which of the following statements reflect what adults think about adolescents?

Statement	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
Teenagers are always difficult	51.8%	31.4%	16.6%
Teenagers have too many rights	24.2%	55.2%	20.6%
Teenagers are trouble-makers	49.3%	35.3%	15.4%
Teenagers have a great deal to offer	53.8%	24.4%	21.8%
Teenagers are creative, energetic and optimistic	62.2%	22.2%	15.6%
Teenagers contribute to their communities	44.8%	32%	23.2%

3. At What Age?

We ask respondents at “At what age do you think children should be able to”

The table below compares the most popular answer with between Europe and Asia. Sadly, our numbers of respondents were too low in other areas to compare

Activity	Europe	Asia
Join social media	13	13
Choose their religion	10	12
Consent to adoption	Under 10	Under 10
Vote	16	18
Have sex	16	18
See a doctor/nurse for counselling and advice on their own	12	13
Get treatment from a doctor without parental consent	16	15
Get Married	18	18
Drink Alcohol and Tobacco	18	18
Join the Military	18	18
Leave School	16	18
Be held responsible for criminal acts	16	18
Take part in part-time paid work	14	16
Take part in full-time paid work	16	18

6. Do you use internet/social media?

Yes	93.4%
No	6.6%

7. What should be done to protect adolescents from problems on social media?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Restrict access to social media	34.8%	45.2%	20%
Provide education in schools on keeping safe	81.7%	8.3%	10%
Report buttons	82.6%	6%	11.2%
Involve parents more	47.8%	29.2%	23%

8. What you do at school?

	1. Not Very	2	3	4	5. Very
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How useful/relevant is the stuff you learn at school?	10.6%	12.3%	22.6%	28.4%	22%
How fun/interesting is the stuff you do at school?	18%	20.9%	28.3%	20.1%	12.7%

9. Does your school have a school council?

Yes	74%
No	6.2%
I don't know	23.6%

In your School:

	1.Not Very	2	3	4	5. Very
How effective is your school council?	30.6%	21.3%	26.5%	14%	7.6%
How effective is the preparation for adolescents moving on from school (to training, higher education, work, etc.)?	16.6%	14.5%	34.7%	25.2%	16.1%

11. How should information about the Convention on the Rights of the Child be provided

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Through the school curriculum	82.6%	5.9%	11.5%
Through TV and radio	63.3%	19.5%	17.2%
Through the Internet/social media	72.9%	11.3%	15.8%

12. Are there enough opportunities for play/sport/recreation for adolescents in your community?

Yes, good spaces and facilities	35.3%
Some, but not enough	49.8%
No very few opportunities	14.9%

What are the barriers to play/recreation outside?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Adults don't like us hanging around	54.8%	26.8%	18.4%
Not safe because of traffic	47.9%	35.5%	16.2%
Parents / carers won't allow me	32.1%	49.9%	18%
Not safe because of violence/gangs/other	51.7%	30.3%	18%
Nowhere that we can be with our friends	40.9%	40%	19%
Everything is too expensive	51.9%	31.6%	16.6%

Other barriers included:

- It's not safe because of the crime rate
- too much to study and house work is also there
- Not knowing how to communicate. Being the only children, I often find myself being awkward with people.
- Not many facilities are provided as play/recreation is not that valued in our society.
- there isn't the resources
- Lack of recreational facilities. Traffic too busy causes air pollution. Lack of public transport.
- In our area violence is very high so sometime my parents are scared to send me for the play
- Nowhere to go Insecurities in body image
- Can't arrange without support from parents
- I don't have time to see my friends. I'm always at trainings and have absolutely no free time. Wake up, go to school, go to training, get home, do homework, sleep. This will be my schedule till I get 16, until then my parents decide what to do with my free time.
- Lack of facilities
- my gender..... i'm a girl and i'm not really "allowed" to play with the boys either because it's too unsafe or i'm just judged badly because i'm a girl
- Over generations we have become more protective of children to the point of smothering them. E.g. British Bulldogs while it was physically it was fun for kids and we got dirty, muddy and knackered. Now it's banned. Some schools having even banned football and this carries on to out of school.

Conclusion

We would like to thank all of the young people that have taken time to complete this questionnaire. The results of the survey have already been given to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to inform their discussions on for their General Comment on Adolescents.

We would like to thank the adults and children that developed this questionnaire as part of a workshop held in CATS 2015.

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