Abstract for Poster

Title: On the Edge of Adulthood

Although the UNCRC extends particular rights to all children, those who are aged 16 and 17 and who are therefore on the ‘edge of adulthood’ sometimes fall outside the parameters of children for the purposes of certain laws and procedures. The law across Europe is ambivalent and inconsistent in the way in which it categorises this age group, treating them as adults for some purposes and as children for others. This has corresponding consequences for the ways in which children experience the fundamental rights provided for by international law, especially the basic rights of protection from discrimination, the right to the basic essentials of life; the right to be protected from harm and the right to have their voices heard. Looking across the UK and Ireland, this poster maps discrepancies in the legal status of this particular group of young people and the relevance this has for UNCRC rights enjoyment for those on the path to adulthood.

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