

## MEASURING THE SCOPE, QUALITY AND IMPACT OF CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

9.30am – 12.15pm, Tuesday 6 December, 2011  
The Great Hall, Queen's University Belfast



In the two decades since adoption of the CRC by the UN General Assembly, child rights advocates throughout the world have actively promoted the fundamental principle, embodied in Article 12, that children have a right to be heard and taken seriously. This advocacy has been supported by a wide range of initiatives designed to create space for children to begin to influence the laws, policies, services and decisions that impact on them. However, it is now time to go beyond the evangelism and begin to invest in monitoring and evaluating the scope, quality and outcomes associated with children's participation. While the right to be heard is not contingent on positive results, it is clearly important to enhance our knowledge and understanding of how participation impacts on children's lives and how to work with children most effectively.

There is considerable anecdotal evidence of the beneficial outcomes, but relatively little sustained or independent research has yet been undertaken. At this seminar, Gerison Lansdown, international children's rights consultant and Research Forum for the Child Visiting Scholar, will explore a new initiative to pilot a framework and tools designed to help improve that knowledge base. The seminar will also highlight examples of local best practice by The Participation Network

**This is a joint event by the University's Research Forum for the Child and the Improving Children's Lives initiative.**

**Registration: This is a free and open event. However space is limited and registration is therefore essential. To book your place please email your name and organisation details to Dr Bronagh Byrne, [b.byrne@qub.ac.uk](mailto:b.byrne@qub.ac.uk)**

9:30am – 9.50am

**Arrival and registration**

9.50am – 10:00am

**Welcome**

Professor Laura Lundy

Director of the Research Forum for the Child

10.00am – 10.45am

**Beyond evangelism: Measuring the scope,  
quality and impact of children's participation**

Gerison Lansdown

International Children's Rights Consultant and  
Research Forum for the Child Visiting Scholar

10.45am – 11.00am

**Tea/Coffee Break**

11.00am – 11.45am

**Ask First: Northern Ireland Standards for  
Children and Young People's Participation in  
Public Decision Making**

Paula Keenan, Strategic and Operational Adviser  
The Participation Network

11.45am – 12.15pm

**Discussion**

12.15pm

**Close**