

CHILD PARTICIPATION RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Voting age in South Africa – Issue 1

- **#littlevoicesMUSTcount**
- Politicians listen to the electorate
- Children must form part of the electorate
- Voting age must decrease to 16 years old

“With children voting at age 16 and up they’ll (politicians) have to start listening to us because when it comes to putting politicians into parliament, we’ll actually have a say and that would put them at a disadvantage if they don’t listen to us”

Recommendation – Issue 1

- ▣ **Recommendation:** Amend the South African Constitution to give children aged 16 years old and up the right to vote

“Just because we'll have power to vote and think of what we want for our country doesn't mean we'll have to grow up faster it just means we'll have to actually think about our future and the country we want to live in”

NHRI for Children– Issue 2

- Only 2 Children’s Commissioners / Ombudspersons in Africa
- SA partly achieved Mongolia’s Cycle 3 recommendation for an NHRI
- Western Cape Commissioner for Children appointed 1 June 2020
- Commissioner is a bridge between children and powerful adults

“We need this type of platform to speak louder about children’s issues”

Recommendations – Issue 2

- ▣ **Recommendation 1:** Amend the South African Constitution to create a National Commissioner for Children, with provision for Commissioners in each province
- ▣ **Recommendation 2:** The law that creates the Commissioner for Children's office must state that the Commissioner must work in partnership with Child Government Monitors.

“It gives us a better state of mind to know there is an adult who will work FOR and WITH us”

Thank you



From all the members of our coalition:

- ❑ Child Government Monitors in the office of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children
- ❑ The Western Cape Commissioner for Children