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*Kirsteen Mackay*

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Following the passage of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) State Parties been under

an obligation to give children the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them. Exercising this right can be particularly problematic when children are asked to express a view on which parent they wish to live with or the amount of time they should spend with a parent they do not live with (contact). This book applies the principles of genuine participation and ethical consultation, as developed by social scientists, to the analysis of the participation of children in over 200 private law contact disputes, raised in Scotland. Included is a quantitative analysis of the views children expressed, and the impact of those views on the outcome of the case, as well as an analysis of the welfare concerns underpinning resistance to contact. In particular, exposure to domestic abuse negatively impacted on a child's wish to have on-going contact with his or her non-resident parent but such views did not always impact on the contact outcome. The findings of this original research project are of relevance to any jurisdiction which has ratified the UNCRC.

About the Author Dr Kirsteen Mackay was funded by the Economic Social Research Council (ESRC) for this doctoral research. She is an honours graduate of Law from Edinburgh University has an MSc in Criminology Criminal Justice. Kirsteen was previously guest lecturer in Family Law at Napier University tutors Family Law and Criminology at Edinburgh University.