

What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child?



Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

Article 2

All children have the rights in this Convention, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what type of family they come from, their race or religion and whether they are a boy or girl.



Article 3

All organizations concerned with children should work towards what is best for you.

Article 4

Governments have a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected.

Article 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

Article 6

You have the right to life. Governments should make sure that children survive and develop healthily.

Article 7

You have the right to a legally registered name and to a nationality (to belong to a country). You also have the right to know, and as far as possible, to be cared for by your parents.

Article 8

Governments should make sure that your right to an identity – an official record of who you are – is not taken away.

Article 9

You have the right to live with your parent(s) unless it is harmful for you, for example if you are being mistreated or neglected. If your parents have separated, you have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might harm you.

Article 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or get back together as a family.

Article 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally (kidnapped).

Article 12

You have the right to say what you think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect you, and for adults to listen to your opinion and take it seriously.

Article 13

You have the right to get and share information, as long as the information is not harmful to you or others.

Article 14

You have the right to choose and practise your own religion, as long as you are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.



Article 15

You have the right to meet up with your friends and to join groups or organizations, as long as you are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.



Article 16

You have the right to privacy. The law should protect children from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.



Article 17

You have the right to get information that is important for your well-being from television, radio, books, newspapers, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Article 18

You have the right to be raised by both your parents, if possible. Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

Article 19

You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind. Governments should make sure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 20

You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parent(s). Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be cared for properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

Article 21

You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care. When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born, or if they are taken to live in another country.

Article 22

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 23

You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can lead a full life.

Article 24

You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food and a clean environment so that you will stay healthy.

Article 25

If you live in the care of local authorities away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to make sure they are appropriate for you.



Article 26

The government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

Article 27

You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. The government should help families who cannot provide this.

Article 28

You have the right to a good quality education, which should be free. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also encourage children to respect their parents, their environment, and their own and other cultures.

Article 30

You have a right to learn and use the language and customs of your family, whether these are shared by most of the people in your country or not.

Article 31

You have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Article 32

You have the right to protection from work that is dangerous for you, and could harm your health and education.

Article 33

You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and the drug trade.

Article 34

You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse. (See OCR number below)



Article 35

No one is allowed to abduct (kidnap) or sell you.

Article 36

You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (when someone takes advantage of you). (See OCR number below)



Article 37

Children who break the law should not be treated in a cruel way. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their family.

Article 38

You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Governments should not allow children under 16 to join the army.

Article 39

You have the right to special help if you have been neglected or abused.

Article 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.

Article 41

If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than those in this Convention, those laws should apply.

Article 42

You have the right to know your rights. The Government should make the Convention known to parents and children.



Articles 43-54

These articles explain how governments, organizations and adults should work together to protect children's rights.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Child-Friendly Version

A Convention is an agreement between countries to obey the same law. Every child and young person under the age of 18 has rights and responsibilities. These are protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). All children's rights are connected to each other and all are equally important. All countries in the world have agreed to obey (ratified) the CRC, except for the USA and South Sudan.

If you know or suspect that a child is being abused or exploited
Report it now. CALL 1-888-PROTECT
 1-888-776-8328 or 908-2143