

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CHILD FRIENDLY VERSION)

Article 1

Everyone under 18 has these rights.

Article 2

All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or a girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, or whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3

All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 4

The government has a responsibility to make sure children's rights are protected.

Article 5

Families have the responsibility to help children learn to exercise their rights, and to ensure that their rights are protected.

Article 6

Children have the right to be alive.

Article 7

Children have the right to a legally registered name and nationality (to belong to a country).

Article 8

Children have the right to an identity – an official record of who they are. No one should take this away from them.

Article 9

Children have the right to live with their parent(s), unless it is bad for them. They have the right to live with a family who cares for them.

Article 10

If children live in a different country than their parents do, they have the right to be together in the same place.

Article 11

Children have the right to be protected from kidnapping.

Article 12

Children have the right to give their opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 13

Children have the right to find out things and share what they think with others unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 14

Children have the right to choose their own religion and beliefs. Their parents should help them decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for them.

Article 15

Children have the right to choose their own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Article 16

Children have the right to privacy.

Article 17

Children have the right to get information that is important to their well-being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources.

Article 18

Children have the right to be raised by their parent(s) if possible.

Article 19

Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 20

Children have the right to special care and help if they cannot live with their parents.

Article 21

Children have the right to care and protection if they are adopted or in foster care.

Article 22

Children have the right to special protection and help if they are refugees (if they have been forced to leave their home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Article 23

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

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Article 24

Children have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment and information to help them stay well.

Article 25

If children live in care or in other situations away from home, they have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

Article 26

Children have the right to assistance from the government if they are poor or in need.

Article 27

Children have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have their basic needs met. They should not be disadvantaged so that they can't do many of the things other kids do.

Article 28

Children have the right to a good quality education. They should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level they can.

Article 29

Children's education should help them use and develop their talents and abilities. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30

Children have the right to practice their own culture, language and religion – or any they choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Article 31

Children have the right to play and rest.

Article 32

Children have the right to protection from work that harms them, and is bad for their health and education. If they work, they have the right to be safe and be paid fairly.

Article 33

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

Article 34*

Children have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

Article 35

No one is allowed to kidnap or sell a child.

Article 36

Children have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Article 37

No one is allowed to punish a child in a cruel or harmful way.

Article 38*

Children have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

Article 39

Children have the right to assistance if they've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

Article 40

Children have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a justice system that respects their rights.

Article 41

If the laws of a country provide better protection of a child's rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

Article 42

Children have the right to know their rights! Adults should know about these rights and help children learn about them, too.

Article 43 to 54

These articles explain how governments and international organizations like UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected with their rights.