



# LEARN ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS!

## The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
This Convention applies to almost every single country in the world!



**1** Until you are eighteen, you are considered a child and have all the rights in this Convention.

**2** You should not be discriminated against for any reason, including your race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, origin, social or economic status, disability, birth, or any other quality of your parents or guardians.

**12** When adults are making decisions that affect you, you have the right to say freely what you think should happen and to have your opinion taken into account.

**3** All actions and decisions that affect you should be based on what is best for you or any child.

**13** You have the right to look for, get and share information in all forms (i.e. through writing, art, television, radio and internet), as long as the information is not damaging to you or to others.

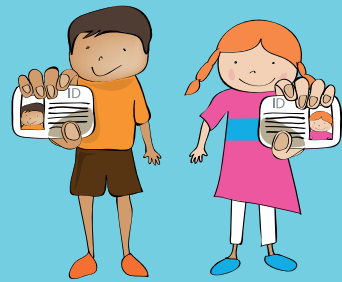
**4** The Government should make these rights available to you and all children.

**14** You have the right to think and believe what you want and to practice your religion, as long as you do not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Your parents should guide you on these matters.

**5** Your family has the main responsibility for guiding you so that, as you grow, you learn to use your rights properly. Governments should respect this right.

**15** You have the right to meet and to join groups and organisations with other children, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

**6** You have the right to live and grow well. Governments should ensure that you survive and develop healthily.



**16** You have the right to protection from interference with privacy, family, home, mail, and from attacks on your character or reputation.

**7** You have the right to have your birth legally registered, to have a name and nationality and to know and to be cared for by your parents.

**17** You have the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, including books, newspapers and magazines, television, radio and internet. Information should be beneficial and understandable to you.

**8** Governments should respect your right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

**18** Both your parents share responsibility for bringing you up and should always consider what is best for you. Governments should provide services to help parents, especially if both parents work.

**9** You should not be separated from your parents unless it is for your own good (for example, if a parent mistreats or neglects you). If your parents have separated, you have the right to stay in contact with both of them unless this might hurt you.

**19** Governments should ensure that you are properly cared for and protect you from violence, abuse and neglect by your parents or anyone else who looks after you.

**10** If your parents live in different countries, you should be allowed to move between those countries so that you can stay in contact with your parents or get back together as a family.

**20** If parents and family cannot care for you properly, then you must be looked after by people who respect your religion, traditions and language.

**11** Governments must take steps to stop you being taken out of your country illegally.

**21** If you are adopted, the first concern must be what is best for you, whether you are adopted in your birth country or if you are taken to live in another country.



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If you have come to a new country because your home country was unsafe, you have the right to protection and support. You have the same rights as children born in that country.

The Government should provide ways of protecting you from using, producing or distributing dangerous drugs.

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If you have any kind of disability, you should have special care, support and education so that you can lead a full and independent life and participate in the community to the best of your ability.

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You should be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

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You have the right to good quality healthcare (i.e. medicine, hospitals, health professionals). You have the right to clean water, nutritious food, a clean environment and health education so that you can stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

The Government should take steps to make sure that you are not kidnapped, sold or taken to other countries to be exploited.

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If you are looked after by local authorities or institutions rather than by your parents, you should have your situation reviewed regularly to make sure you have good care and treatment.

You should be protected from any activities that could harm your development and wellbeing.

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The society in which you live should provide you with benefits of social security that help you develop and live in good conditions (i.e. education, culture, nutrition, health, social welfare). The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

If you break the law, you should not be treated cruelly. You should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to stay in contact with your family. The death penalty and life sentences in prison are not allowed for children.

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You should live in good conditions that help you develop physically, mentally, spiritually, morally and socially. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Most governments have agreed in an Optional Protocol to the CRC that children under 18 should not be allowed to join the army.

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You have the right to education. Primary education should be free and required. Secondary education should be accessible to every child. Higher education should be available to everyone on the basis of capacity. School discipline should respect your rights and dignity.

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If you are under 15, governments should not allow you to join the army or take any direct part in war. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

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You should receive special care if you were neglected or abused, were a victim of exploitation or war, or were put in prison.

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Education should develop your personality, talents, mental and physical abilities. It should prepare you for active participation in a free society, and encourage you to respect your own culture and other people's culture.

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If you are accused of breaking the law, you must be treated in a way that respects your dignity. You should receive legal help and only be given a prison sentence for most serious crimes.

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

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You have the right to rest, have leisure, play and participate in cultural and artistic activities.

If the laws in your country are better for children than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should be followed.

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The Government should protect you from work that is dangerous to your health or development, that interferes with your education or that might lead people to take advantage of you.

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents, institutions and children.

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