



United Nations Children's Fund Convention on the Rights of the Child *In Child Friendly Language*

Articles 1 and 2: Everyone Has The Same Rights!

- All children have the same 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, whether they are rich or poor.
- **No child should be treated unfairly.**

Article 3: Adults Should Do What Is Best For Children

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

Article 4: The Government (Adults Who Run The Country)

The government should...

- Protect children's rights and help your family to protect your rights.
- Create an environment in your country where you can grow well and achieve your best.

Articles 5, 9, 10 and 18: Families

- Your family has the responsibility to help you learn and use your rights and to make sure your rights are protected. (5)
- You have the right to live with your family, unless this is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you. (9)
- If you live in a different country from your parents, you have a right to be together in the same place. (10)
- You have a right to be raised by your parents, if possible. (18)

Article 6: The Right to Life

- Every child in the world has the right to be alive.

Articles 7 and 8: Your Name and Identity

- Every child has the right to a name, recognised by the government, and the right to a nationality (this means you belong to a country and you can have a passport from there). (7)
- You have the right to an official record of who you are (such as a Birth Certificate) and no-one can take this away from you. (8)

Articles 11, 19 and 32 - 39: Protection

- You have the right to be protected from kidnapping. (11)
- You have the right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated in body or mind. (19)
- You have the right to protection from work that is bad for your health or education. If, when older, you do work, you should be kept safe and paid fairly. (32)
- You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and the drugs trade. (33)
- You have the right to protection from all kinds of physical abuse (34).
- No -one is allowed to exploit you or sell you. (35-6)

- No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way. (37).
- You should have the right to protection and freedom from war. No child under the age of 15 should ever be forced to join the army or take part in war. (38)
- You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected or badly treated. (39).

Articles 12-15: Having Your Say and Making Your Own Choices

- You have the right to give your opinion and for adults to listen and take it seriously. (12)
- You have the right to find out things and to share what you think with others in any way you like, unless it stops others from enjoying their rights. (13)
- You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you. (14)
- You have the right to choose your own friends and set up your own groups as long as it isn't harmful to others. (15)

Article 16: Privacy

- You have the right to privacy: a space or place to call your own.

Article 17: Information

- You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being and learning: from radio, TV, newspapers, books and the internet. Adults should make sure that the information you get isn't harmful, and help you find and understand it.

Articles 20-23 and 25: Special Care

You have the right to...

- Special care and help if you cannot live with your parents. (20)
- Special care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care. (21)
- Special protection and help if you are a refugee (someone who has been forced to leave their home and live in another country). (22)
- Special education and care if you have a disability, so that you can live a full life (23).
- If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have your living arrangements looked at regularly to make sure they are right for you. (25).

Articles 24 and 31: Healthy Living

- You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment and information to help you stay well (24).
- You have the right to play and rest (31).

Article 26: Poverty

- You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27: Basic Needs

- You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you don't get the chances other children get.

Articles 28 and 29: Education

- You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can. (28)
- Your education should help you to use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you to learn to live peacefully, protect the environment, and respect other people. (29)

Article 30: Your Own Culture

- You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion, or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Articles 40-41: Your Rights in Law

- You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a justice system that respects your rights. (40).
- If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, then those laws should apply. (41)

Article 42: Knowing Your Rights!

- You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them too.

Articles 43 to 54

- These articles explain how governments and international organisations like UNICEF will work to make sure children are protected with their rights.