



Rights for every child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states the rights of all children and young people under the age of 18.





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All over the world, children can be separated from the ones they love best. This mother and son are reunited after being separated by the 2004 tsunami.

CARED FOR

All organisations concerned with children, for example, schools and the health service, should work towards what is best for each child. **Article 3**

All children have a right to a birth certificate. **Article 7**

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good. For instance, if a parent is hurting their child or not taking care of them properly. **Article 9**

If parents decide to live apart, children have the right to stay in contact with both parents. **Article 9**

Families who live in different countries have the right to get back together and live in the same place. **Article 10**





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Over 100 million children do dangerous work, often away from their families, and don't go to school.

PROTECTION

All children should be protected from violence, abuse and neglect, and governments should protect them.

Article 19

Children should not be allowed to do work that is dangerous or might make them ill, or stops them going to school.

Article 32

Children have a right to be protected from dangerous drugs, and from the business of making or selling them.

Article 33

Nobody can do anything to your body that you do not want them to do, and grown-ups should protect you. **Article 34**

No child should be punished in a way that humiliates or hurts them. **Article 37**





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A girl speaks on the UNICEF-supported Young People's Media Network (YPMN), produced and run by children age 14–17 in Georgia.

PARTICIPATING

All children have a right to be able to give their opinion when adults are making a decision that will affect them, and adults should take it seriously.

Article 12

All children have a right to find out things, and say what they think through speaking, writing, drawing etc. unless it breaks the rights of others. **Article 13**

All children have the right to meet, make friends with, and join clubs with other children. **Article 15**

All children have the right to privacy. **Article 16**

All children have the right to information from TV, radio, newspapers and the internet. These media should provide information that children can understand. **Article 17**





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Friendship knows no barriers of country, culture, race or religion.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

All children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion. **Article 14**

Parents should help children learn what is right and wrong. **Article 14**

Children who are refugees or asylum seekers in another land have the right to special protection. They have the same rights as children who were born in that country. **Article 22**

Children who come from a minority group have the right to learn and use the language and customs of their families. Also to practise their own religion and use their own language. **Article 30**





A Rwandan boy holds a UNICEF schoolbook at his primary school. More than 90 million children do not receive primary education.

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EDUCATION AND PLAY

All children have the right to an education. **Article 28**

The purpose of education is to develop every child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities. **Article 29**

Education should teach children to respect their parents, their own and other cultures. **Article 29**

Education should prepare children to live responsibly and peacefully in a free society. **Article 29**

Education should teach children to respect the natural environment. **Article 29**

All children have the right to relax and play, and to join a wide range of activities. **Article 31**





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A boy, age 9, drinks water from a tap in the village of Boa Marte, Sao Tome. More than 120 million children do not have safe water.

SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Every child has the right to life. **Article 6**

Children who are disabled, either mentally or physically, have a right to special care and education so they can lead full and independent lives.

Article 23

All children have a right to good health and good quality health care. All children should have clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so they stay healthy. **Article 24**

All children have the right to a decent standard of living. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide a decent standard of living for their children. **Article 27**





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Sami, age 6, watches as his parents unpack a UNICEF water kit. The family lost their home in the 2004 Asian tsunami.

REHABILITATION* AND CARE

Children under the age of 16 years should not take a direct part in any conflict. **Article 38**

Children who are affected by an armed conflict should have special protection and care. **Article 38**

Children who have suffered in any way have a right to get help in a safe place, to help them recover. **Article 39**

* Rehabilitation means that things are done to put life back to normal.

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Acknowledgements

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