UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

“Rights” are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.


**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, religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

**Article 3**
All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

**Article 4**
The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow up happy and healthy.

**Article 5**
Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

**Article 6**
You have the right to be alive.

**Article 7**
You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognized by the government. You have the right to a nationality (belonging to a country).

**Article 8**
You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.

**Article 9**
You have the right to live with your parents, unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.

**Article 10**
If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.

**Article 11**
You have the right to be protected from exploitation, abuse, or sale.

**Article 12**
You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

**Article 13**
You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

**Article 14**
You have the right to share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

**Article 15**
You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn’t harmful to others.

**Article 16**
You have the right to privacy.

**Article 17**
You have the right to get information that is important in your well-being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that 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 your parents if possible.

**Article 19**
You have the right to be protected from being hurt and maltreated, in body or mind.

**Article 20**
You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

**Article 21**
You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

**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, so as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.

**Article 24**
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.

**Article 25**
If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

**Article 26**
You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

**Article 27**
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 can’t do any of the things other kids can do.

**Article 28**
You have the right to be protected from being hurt and maltreated, in body or mind.

**Article 29**
You have the right to learn about war.

**Article 30**
You have the right to your own culture, language and religion, and to practice them if you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

**Article 31**
You have the right to play and rest.

**Article 32**
You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

**Article 33**
You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

**Article 34**
You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

**Article 35**
You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

**Article 36**
You have the right to protection from any form of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

**Article 37**
No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

**Article 38**
You have the right to your name.

**Article 39**
You have the right to know your name! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.

**Article 40**
You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

**Article 41**
If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

**Article 42**
You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.

**Article 43**
These articles explain how governments and international organizations like UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected with their rights.

---

**UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

“Rights” are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.