

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.

		For the world (what are the current issues in the world?)	For Europe (what should we do?)
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 girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.	Around the world children remain oppressed by reason of religious suppression or from conflict.	Nobody should assume that children from different parts of the world or from different cultures have less value, or matter less than their own.
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.	Religious extremism and armed conflict are prevalent worldwide. Adults driving these processes frequently fail to consider the effects of their decisions and how they will affect children.	Decisions we make about distant parts of the world need to consider the effect of those decisions on children caught up in war and oppression. Those people who fight wars, or oppress other adults also oppress children and should be brought to account for

			the harm they inflict
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 and reach your potential.	The destruction of schools and the repression of women and children by their own leaders occurs in countries across the world	We must work within our own populations and those arriving from outside to protect the environment where children live and learn
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.	Not bombed or shot or raped	Not left to drown or barred safe passage
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 (to belong to a country).		Not just the country of your birth
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 parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a family who cares for you.	The enforced migration of millions of people caught up in war leads to the disruption of family units.	
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 kidnapping.	And from exploitation and trafficking	And every effort must be made to halt such activity

Article 12	You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.		The opinion of children needs to be heard more widely
Article 13	You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, or writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.		
Article 14	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.		
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 to 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 parent(s) if possible.		
Article 19	You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, 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, 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 many of the things other kids can do.		
Article 28	You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.	Yet the destruction of schools continues	
Article 29	Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.		
Article 30	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.		
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	No one is allowed to kidnap or sell		

	you.		
Article 36	You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).		
Article 37	No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.		
Article 38	You 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	You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.		
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.		