

# This "Convention on the Rights of the Child" belongs to:

A publication of: UNICEF Switzerland  
and Liechtenstein, Pfingstweidstrasse  
10, 8005 Zurich, unicef.ch

Illustrations: ©UNICEF Switzerland  
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Translation: Translingua AG, Zurich.  
English texts for the articles:  
Child Rights Connect

This publication is based on an original  
version by UNICEF Germany (illustra-  
tions: ©Atelier Wolfgang Friesslich,  
Nuremberg).

2024 Edition



1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

3 Superpower: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **All children and young people have rights – that includes you!**

Children's rights – your rights – are found in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This contract was signed by almost every country in the world, including Switzerland and Liechtenstein. These countries have promised to guarantee children's rights within their borders. All children's rights are interlinked and of equal importance. No one can take these rights away from a child.

# Convention on the Rights of the Child

On November 20, 1989, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It guarantees the rights – to survival, development, protection and participation – of all young people under the age of 18.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines the basic values in relation to children and young people with regard to all social, cultural, ethnic or religious differences. It also calls for the new perspective of seeing children and young people as individuals with autonomy.

Children and young people are autonomous persons with very special needs and rights. Through recognition of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, states commit themselves to prioritizing the well-being of children and young people at all times.



## CRC art. 1 DEFINITION OF A CHILD

A child is any person under the age of 18. At 18, you are an adult and have the same rights and responsibilities as other adults, like your parents, teachers and neighbors.



## CRC art. 2 NO DISCRIMINATION

All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.



**CRC art. 3**  
**BEST INTERESTS  
OF THE CHILD**

When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children. Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed. Governments should make sure that people and places responsible for looking after children are doing a good job.



**CRC art. 4**  
**MAKING  
RIGHTS REAL**

Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their country can enjoy all the rights in this Convention.





CRC art. 5

## FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP

Governments should let families and communities guide their children so that, as they grow up, they learn to use their rights in the best way. The more children grow, the less guidance they will need.



CRC art. 6

## LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Every child has the right to be alive. Governments must make sure that children survive and develop in the best possible way.





CRC art. 7

## **NAME AND NATIONALITY**

Children must be registered when they are born and given a name which is officially recognized by the government. Children must have a nationality (belong to a country). Whenever possible, children should know their parents and be looked after by them.



CRC art. 8

## **IDENTITY**

Children have the right to their own identity – an official record of who they are which includes their name, nationality and family relations. No one should take this away from them, but if this happens, governments must help children to quickly get their identity back.



CRC art. 9

## **KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER**

Children should not be separated from their parents unless they are not being properly looked after – for example, if a parent hurts or does not take care of a child. Children whose parents don't live together should stay in contact with both parents unless this might harm the child.



CRC art. 10

## CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES

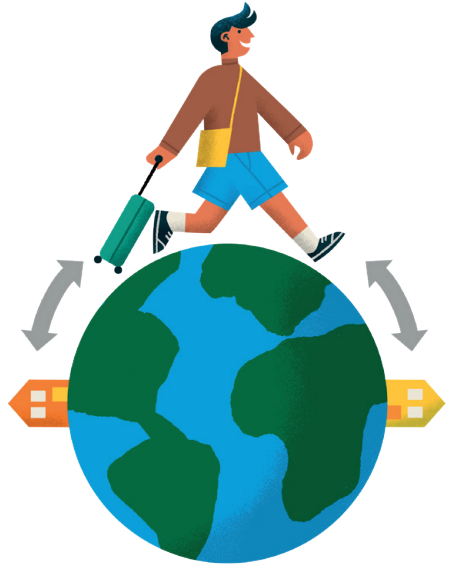
If a child lives in a different country than their parents, governments must let the child and parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.



CRC art. 11

## PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING

Governments must stop children from being taken out of the country when this is against the law – for example, being kidnapped by someone or held abroad by a parent when the other parent does not agree.







CRC art. 12  
**RESPECT  
FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS**

Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.



CRC art. 13  
**SHARING  
THOUGHTS FREELY**

Children have the right to share freely with others what they learn, think and feel, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms other people.





CRC art. 14

## FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION

Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.



CRC art. 15

## SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS

Children can join or set up groups or organizations, and they can meet with others, as long as this does not harm other people.





CRC art. 16

## PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Every child has the right to privacy. The law must protect children's privacy, family, home, communications and reputation (or good name) from any attack.



CRC art. 17

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Children have the right to get information from the Internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources. Adults should make sure the information they are getting is not harmful. Governments should encourage the media to share information from lots of different sources, in languages that all children can understand.



CRC art. 18  
**RESPONSIBILITY  
OF PARENTS**

Parents are the main people responsible for bringing up a child. When the child does not have any parents, another adult will have this responsibility and they are called a “guardian”. Parents and guardians should always consider what is best for the child. Governments should help them. Where a child has both parents, both of them should be responsible for bringing up the child.



CRC art. 19  
**PROTECTION  
FROM VIOLENCE**

Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected by anyone who looks after them.



CRC art. 20  
**CHILDREN  
WITHOUT FAMILIES**

Every child who cannot be looked after by their own family has the right to be looked after properly by people who respect the child’s religion, culture, language and other aspects of their life.





CRC art. 21

## CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED

When children are adopted, the most important thing is to do what is best for them. If a child cannot be properly looked after in their own country – for example by living with another family – then they might be adopted in another country.



CRC art. 22

## REFUGEE CHILDREN

Children who move from their home country to another country as refugees (because it was not safe for them to stay there) should get help and protection and have the same rights as children born in that country.





CRC art. 23

## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society. Governments should remove all obstacles for children with disabilities to become independent and to participate actively in the community.





CRC art. 24

## HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT

Andere Reihenfolge als Deutsch  
«Ernährung» steht zuletzt»

Children have the right to the best health care possible, clean water to drink, healthy food and a clean and safe environment to live in. All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.



CRC art. 25

## REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT

Every child who has been placed somewhere away from home – for their care, protection or health – should have their situation checked regularly to see if everything is going well and if this is still the best place for the child to be.



CRC art. 26

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP

Governments should provide money or other support to help children from poor families.



CRC art. 27

## FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME

Children have the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live so they can develop in the best possible way. The government should help families and children who cannot afford this.



CRC art. 28

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education should be free. Secondary and higher education should be available to every child. Children should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible. Discipline in schools should respect children's rights and never involve violence.







CRC art. 29

## AIMS OF EDUCATION

Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, cultures and differences. It should help them to live peacefully and protect the environment.





CRC art. 30

## MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion – even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.



CRC art. 31

## REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS

Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities.





CRC art. 32

## PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK

Children have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or bad for their education, health or development. If children work, they have the right to be safe and paid fairly.



CRC art. 34

## PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

The government should protect children from sexual exploitation (being taken advantage of) and sexual abuse, including by people forcing children to have sex for money, or making sexual pictures or films of them.



CRC art. 33

## PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS

Governments must protect children from taking, making, carrying or selling harmful drugs.





CRC art. 35

## **PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING**

Governments must make sure that children are not kidnapped or sold, or taken to other countries or places to be exploited (taken advantage of).



CRC art. 36

## **PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION**

Children have the right to be protected from all other kinds of exploitation (being taken advantage of), even if these are not specifically mentioned in this Convention.



CRC art. 37

## **CHILDREN IN DETENTION**

Children who are accused of breaking the law should not be killed, tortured, treated cruelly, put in prison forever, or put in prison with adults. Prison should always be the last choice and only for the shortest possible time. Children in prison should have legal help and be able to stay in contact with their families.



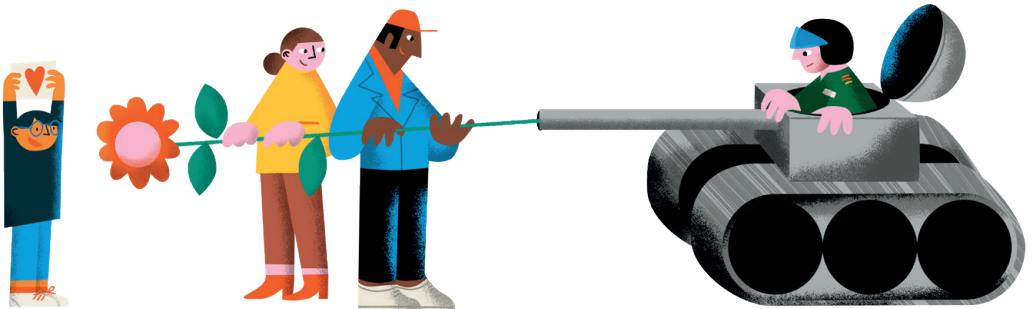
CRC art. 38  
**PROTECTION  
IN WAR**

Children have the right to be protected during war. No child under 15 can join the army or take part in war.



CRC art. 39  
**RECOVERY AND  
REINTEGRATION**

Children have the right to get help if they have been hurt, neglected, treated badly or affected by war, so they can get back their health and dignity.





CRC art. 40

## CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW

Children accused of breaking the law have the right to legal help and fair treatment. There should be lots of solutions to help these children become good members of their communities. Prison should only be the last choice.



CRC art. 41

## BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES

If the laws of a country protect children's rights better than this Convention, then those laws should be used.



CRC art. 42

## EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Governments should actively tell children and adults about this Convention so that everyone knows about children's rights.





CRC art. 43-54

## HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

These articles explain how governments, the United Nations – including the Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF – and other organizations work to make sure all children enjoy all their rights.



**UNICEF** was established in the aftermath of the Second World War to help sick and hungry children and young people in Europe.

Since then, it has become the largest children's rights organization in the world, standing up for children in more than 190 countries and territories.

Today, UNICEF continues to go where children and young people need help, to fight for their rights – no ifs or buts. Because all people should have the opportunity to grow up healthy and develop their abilities – regardless of where they come from, where they live, or which religion they belong to.



Learn more  
→ [unicef.ch/childrenrights](https://www.unicef.ch/childrenrights)