

# The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Article 1**

Everyone under 18 has all these rights.

**Article 2**

You have the right to protection against discrimination. This means that nobody can treat you badly because of your colour, sex or religion, if you speak another language, have a disability or are rich or poor.

**Article 3**

All adults should always do what is best for you.

**Article 4**

You have the right to have your rights made a reality by the government.

**Article 5**

You have the right to be given guidance by your parents and family.

**Article 6**

You have the right to life.

**Article 7**

You have the right to have a name and a nationality.

**Article 8**

You have the right to an identity.

**Article 9**

You have the right to live with your parents, unless it is bad for you.

**Article 10**

If you and your parents are living in separate countries, you have the right to get back together and live in the same place.

**Article 11**

You should not be kidnapped.

**Article 12**

You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

**Article 13**

You have the right to find out things and say what you think, through making art, speaking and writing, unless it breaks the rights of others.

**Article 14**

You have the right to think what you like and be whatever religion you want to be, with your parents guidance.

**Article 15**

You have the right to be with friends and join or set up clubs, unless this breaks the rights of others.

**Article 16**

You have the right to a private life. For instance, you can keep a diary that other people are not allowed to see.

**Article 17**

You have the right to collect information from the media - radios, newspapers, television, etc - from all around the world. You should also be protected from information that could harm you.

**Article 18**

You have the right to be brought up by your parents, if possible.

**Article 19**

You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

**Article 20**

You have the right to special protection and help if you can't live with your parents.

**Article 21**

You have the right to have the best care for you if you are adopted or fostered or living in care.

**Article 22**

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee. A refugee is someone who has had to leave their country because it is not safe for them to live there.

**Article 23**

If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education to help you develop and lead a full life.

**Article 24**

You have the right to the best health possible and to medical care and to information that will help you to stay well.

**Article 25**

You have the right to have your living arrangements checked regularly if you have to be looked after away from home.

**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 a good enough standard of living. This means you should have food, clothes and a place to live.

**Article 28**

You have the right to education.

**Article 29**

You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect the environment.

**Article 30**

If you come from a minority group, because of your race, religion or language, you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practice your own religion, and use your own language.

**Article 31**

You have the right to play and relax by doing things like sports, music and drama.

**Article 32**

You have the right to protection from work that is bad for your health or education.

**Article 33**

You have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs.

**Article 34**

You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse.

**Article 35**

No-one is allowed to kidnap you or sell you.

**Article 36**

You have the right to protection from any other kind of exploitation.

**Article 37**

You have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way.

**Article 38**

You have the right to protection in times of war. If you are under 15, you should never have to be in an army or take part in a battle.

**Article 39**

You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected, or badly treated.

**Article 40**

You have the right to help in defending yourself if you are accused of breaking the law.

**Article 41**

You have the right to any rights in laws in your country or internationally that give you better rights than these.

**Article 42**

All adults and children should know about this convention. You have a right to learn about your rights and adults should learn about them too.

*This is a simplified version of the UNCRC. It has been signed by 193 countries. The convention has 54 articles in total. Article 43 - 54 are about how governments and international organisations will work to give children their rights.*