

1ST PART



Articles 2/3/6/12 represent the 4 fundamental principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

ARTICLE 1
DEFINITION OF THE CHILD
Every human being under the age of 18.

ARTICLE 2
NON DISCRIMINATION *
Countries commit to guarantee all the rights addressed in this Convention to every child, without any distinction.

ARTICLE 7
NAME AND NATIONALITY
Every child has the right to be registered at the moment of birth, the right to a name and a nationality.

ARTICLE 8
IDENTITY
Every child has the right to preserve their identity – this includes nationality, name 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.

ARTICLE 14
FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION
Children have the right to freedom of thought, to have their own opinions and to choose their religion, while respecting the rights of others. Children have the right to have appropriate guidance in exercising this rights.

ARTICLE 15
FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION
Children can join or set up groups or organisations, and they can freely meet with others, as long as this respects the rights of others.

ARTICLE 18
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES
When a child has both parents, they both have the responsibility to contribute to the education and development of the child and they should be adequately supported in exercising this responsibility.

ARTICLE 19
PROTECTION
Every child must be protected from any form of violence, abandonment, negligence or exploitation.

ARTICLE 22
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION
Children who move from their home country to another country as refugees (because it was not safe for them to stay there) should receive adequate protection and assistance, enjoying the same rights as children born in that country.

ARTICLE 23
DISABILITY
Any child with a physical or mental disability has the right to a full life, in an environment that guarantees their dignity, favors their autonomy and active participation in community life, with access to special care if necessary.

ARTICLE 24
HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES
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.

ARTICLE 25
PERIODIC REVIEW OF PLACEMENT
Every child who has been placed somewhere away from home – for their care, protection or health – should have their situation regularly checked to see if everything is going well and if this is still the best place for the child to be.

ARTICLE 28
EDUCATION
Every child has the right to education. Governments must guarantee free and compulsory primary education for all and accessible secondary education, adopting measures that work to prevent school dropout.

ARTICLE 29
EDUCATIONAL AIMS
Children's education should help them fully develop their personality, abilities and life project. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, cultures and differences, promoting peace and respect for the environment.

ARTICLE 33
DRUG ABUSE
Governments must protect children from taking, making, carrying or selling harmful drugs.

ARTICLE 34
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
Every child must be protected from any form of sexual abuse, violence and/or exploitation.

ARTICLE 38
ARMED CONFLICTS
Governments shall take all possible measures to ensure that all children affected by conflicts can benefit from care and protection and ensure that children under the age of fifteen do not participate directly in hostilities and are not enrolled into the armed forces.

ARTICLE 39
REHABILITATION
Governments shall take all appropriate measures to facilitate the physical and psychological recovery, as well as the social reintegration of children that have been victims of any form of exploitation or ill-treatment, torture or armed conflict.

ARTICLE 3
BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD *
The best interests of every child must inform and guide all decisions regarding them, so as to ensure their protection and wellbeing.

ARTICLE 9
SEPARATION FROM PARENTS
Children must not be separated from their parents against their will, unless it is in their best interests. In the case of separation from one or both parents, the child has the right to stay in contact with both parents unless this is against their best interests.

ARTICLE 4
IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHTS
Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their countries can enjoy all the rights in this Convention.

ARTICLE 10
FAMILY REUNIFICATION
Every child has the right to be reunited with their parents. 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.

ARTICLE 11
UNLAWFUL REMOVAL AND NON-RETURN
Countries must prevent the unlawful displacement of children.

ARTICLE 5
THE ROLE OF ADULTS
Countries respect the responsibility, the right and duty of parents, extended family or any other caring adult to accompany and guide the child in exercising their rights, according to their evolving capacities.

ARTICLE 12
RIGHT TO BE HEARD *
Children have the right to give their opinions freely and express their views on issues that affect them. Their opinions must be duly taken into consideration, taking into account their age and level of maturity.

ARTICLE 6
LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT *
Every child has the right to be alive. Governments must make sure that children live and develop in the best possible way.

ARTICLE 13
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
Every child has the right to freedom of expression, to look for, receive and share information and ideas through any means of expression, in respect for the rights of others.

ARTICLE 17
ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE INFORMATION
Children have the right to obtain information from the internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources. Governments should encourage media to disseminate socially and culturally useful information, protecting children from information potentially detrimental to their wellbeing.

ARTICLE 16
PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE
Every child has the right to privacy and to be protected from arbitrary or unlawful interference in their private life, family, home or correspondence.

ARTICLE 20
DEPRIVATION OF THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT
Every child who cannot be looked after by their own family has the right to receive adequate protection and help by people who respect the child's religion, culture, language and other aspects of their life.

ARTICLE 21
ADOPTION
Countries that allow adoption must ensure that the best interests of the child are the fundamental concern, and monitor the situation until it is approved by the competent authorities.

ARTICLE 26
SOCIAL SECURITY
Every child has the right to benefit from social security, including social welfare.

ARTICLE 27
QUALITY OF LIFE
Every child has the right to a standard of living that enables their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. The governments should help families and children if necessary.

ARTICLE 30
MINORITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
Every child belonging to an ethnic, linguistic or religious minority, or with indigenous origins, has the right to their own cultural life, to practice their own religion and speak their own language.

ARTICLE 31
FREE TIME AND PLAY
Every child has the right to rest, free time, play and recreational activities appropriate to their age and to freely participate in artistic and cultural life.

Steve McCURRY CHILDREN



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

LIGHT VERSION

Defence for Children International was founded in 1979 to contribute to the drafting of this Convention. It is present in over 40 countries worldwide. The Italian section is based in Genoa and works to promote opportunities and perspectives capable of reaffirming the protagonism of the younger generations and a culture based on the recognition of their rights.



ARTICLE 35
SALE TRAFFICKING AND ABDUCTION
Governments commit to prevent the kidnapping, sale or trafficking of children for any purpose and in any form.

ARTICLE 36
OTHER FORMS OF EXPLOITATION
Children must be protected from any other forms of exploitation even if these are not specifically mentioned in this Convention.

ARTICLE 40
CHILD JUSTICE
Every child charged with, or found guilty of a criminal offense has the right to a treatment that is age appropriate, timely, diligent, respectful of their dignity, in line with their rights and needs, respectful of their family and private life, in line with the principles of due process and which fosters their participation. Governments shall commit to find alternative solutions to imprisonment.

ARTICLE 37
TORTURE AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY
Children who are accused of committing a crime should not be killed, tortured, treated cruelly or imprisoned for life. Prison should always be the last choice, only for the shortest possible time and always separated from adults. If deprived of liberty, children have the right to maintain contact with their family and have access to legal and any other appropriate assistance.

ARTICLE 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.

ARTICLES 46 54
THIRD PART
PROCEDURAL ARTICLES
The last nine articles of the Convention deal with procedural issues: approval and application, the possibility for countries to propose amendments or withdraw from the Convention, and the delivery of the text in various languages to the UN secretary general.

ARTICLE 32
ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION
Every child has the right to be protected against economic exploitation and not to be forced into work that are dangerous for their education, health or development. If children work, they have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

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ARTICLES 42 45
SECOND PART
UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
The second part establishes and regulates the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, an independent body tasked with reviewing the progress made by countries in fulfilling their obligations under the convention and its optional protocols.

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