

MY RIGHTS!
for
16-18 years old



Save the Children
Sweden

The vision

Save the Children works for:

- a world which respects and values each child
- a world which listens to children and learns
- a world where all children have hope and opportunity

The mission

Save the Children fights for children's rights.

We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

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MY RIGHTS!

“Rights” are what all children have as human beings. All children have the same rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) lists these rights. The aim of the UNCRC is to set standards for children's rights so that children develop to their fullest abilities and are protected from neglect and abuse.

Almost every country has agreed to these rights. Parents have the primary responsibility for children's upbringing and security. If our parents cannot provide for our upbringing, our Government has the responsibility to support our families. The ultimate responsibility lies with the Government to ensure that the rights listed in the UNCRC are implemented.

As we grow older, we have more chances to take responsibility and exercise our rights. We also have the responsibility to respect and not violate the rights of other children and adults.

All the rights are connected to each other and all are equally important. The most important consideration is the best interest of the child.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 1: Definition of a child

I am a child if I am under 18, unless my national laws recognise the age of majority earlier.

Article 2: Non-discrimination

All rights apply to all children without exception. Nobody is allowed to discriminate me based on my or my parent's identity, nationality, disability, colour, caste, ethnicity, religion, gender, language, HIV/AIDS or economic background. No child should be treated unfairly on any ground. It is my Government's responsibility to protect all children from any form of discrimination.

Article 3: Best interests of the child

Any actions concerning children shall be taken on the basis of what is best for them. My Government shall provide me with adequate care when my parents, or others taking that responsibility, fail to do so.

Article 4: Implementation of the rights

My Government must do all it can to implement the rights outlined in the UNCRC.

Article 5: Parental guidance and children's evolving capacities

My family has the responsibility to help me practice my rights and to ensure that my rights are protected. My Government shall support my parents and caregivers, in providing guidance to me, taking into account my age and understanding.

Article 6: Survival and development

I have the right to life. My Government has the responsibility and obligation to ensure my survival and development.

Article 7: Name and nationality

I have the right to a name at birth. I also have the right to acquire a nationality. As far as possible, I have the right to know my parents and be cared for by them.

Article 8: Preservation of identity

I have the right to an identity. My Government has the responsibility and obligation to protect and if necessary, re-establish basic aspects of my identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.

Article 9: Separation from parents

I have the right to live with my parents, unless it is not in my best interest. I also have the right to maintain contact with both my parents if separated from one or both.

Article 10: Family reunification

If I live in a different country than my parents, I should be allowed to move between the different countries so that I can live with my parents or stay in contact with my family.

Article 11: Illegal transfer and non-return

My Government has the responsibility to protect and prevent me from being kidnapped or forcefully kept abroad by a parent or third party.

Article 12: Children's opinion

I have the right to express my opinion freely. These opinions must be taken into account by adults in any matter or procedure affecting me.

Article 13: Freedom of expression

I have the right to express my views, obtain information and share opinions, as long as the information is not damaging or offending to me or to others.

Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

I have the right to choose my own religion and beliefs. My Government should respect my right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion with appropriate guidance from my parents.

Article 15: Freedom of association

I have the right to meet with others and to join or form associations or groups, as long as this is not harmful to others.

Article 16: Protection of privacy

I have the right to protection from interference with my privacy, family and correspondence such as letters, emails, phones and diary.

Article 17: Access to appropriate information

I have the right to have access to appropriate information and material from diverse sources which is of social and personal benefit to me. Adults should make sure that I can understand the information I receive and that it is not harmful to me.

Article 18: Parental responsibilities

My parents have a joint responsibility to raise me. My Government shall provide appropriate support to my parents in doing so.

Article 19: Protection from abuse, neglect and violence

I have the right to protection from all kinds of abuse, neglect and violence. My Government shall protect me from maltreatment, including physical punishment, by parents or others responsible for my care. It should also establish programmes for preventing abuse and provide appropriate treatment, if I have been mistreated.

Article 20: Protection of children without family

My Government has the responsibility to provide special protection if I cannot live with my parents. It should also ensure that appropriate alternative family or institutional care placement is available. If alternative family care is provided, efforts should be made to respect my cultural background and needs.

Article 21: Adoption

In countries where adoption is recognised, it shall only be carried out in the best interest of the child. Adoption can only be done with the authorisation of relevant official authorities.

Article 22: Refugee children

If I have been forced to leave my country (refugee), I have the same rights as other children of that country (of arrival). If I am unaccompanied, I have the right to special protection and support. I also have all the other rights as mentioned in the UNCRC. The same applies when I am internally displaced in my own country.

Article 23: Disabled children

If I have a disability, I have the right to additional care, education, training and support services to help me enjoy a full and independent life together with people without disabilities. This should be achieved with the greatest degree of social integration possible.

Article 24: Health and health services

I have the right to the highest standard of health and medical care services possible. This includes access to safe water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment and information to help me stay healthy. My Government shall give priority to primary healthcare, public health education and reduction of infant mortality.

Article 25: Periodic review of placement

If I am living in an alternative care or in an institution, the placement or arrangements shall be evaluated regularly, to check it is in my best interest.

Article 26: Social security

If my family or I are poor or in need of support, I have the right to receive help from my Government in the form of social security services.

Article 27: Standard of living

I have the right to a standard of living appropriate to my physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development needs. My Government's duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled by my parents. My Government's responsibility may include material and financial assistance to my parents and to me.

Article 28: Education

I have the right to free quality primary education. My Government shall encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child. Higher education must be made available to all on the basis of capacity. Disciplining techniques in schools must not undermine my rights and dignity.

Article 29: Aims of education

Education should develop my personality, talents, social, mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. It should instill the value of basic human rights such as respect, freedom, dignity, diversity and tolerance . It should prepare me for an active life in society and encourage respect towards my culture, values and language and those of other people.

Article 30: Children of minorities or indigenous populations

If I belong to a minority community or an indigenous population, I have the right to enjoy my culture and practice my religion and language.

Article 31: Leisure, recreation and cultural activities

I have the right to leisure, recreation and to participate in cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32: Child labour

I have the right to be protected from work that threatens my health, education and development. If I work, I have the right to a safe working environment and fair pay.

Article 33: Drug abuse

I have the right to protection from the use of narcotic drugs or any other harmful drugs. I have the right to be protected from being involved in production or distribution of drugs.

Article 34: Sexual exploitation

I have the right to be protected and free from sexual exploitation and abuse of any kind, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

Article 35: Sale, trafficking and abduction

My Government must protect me from child trafficking, abduction and selling.

Article 36: Other forms of exploitation

I have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation.

Article 37: Torture and deprivation of liberty

No one shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or unlawful arrest. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility of release are prohibited for offences committed by children.

If I am deprived of my liberty, I must be separated from adults unless it is considered in my best interest not to do so. If I have been detained, I shall have legal and other assistance, as well as contact with my family.

Article 38: Armed conflicts

My Government should take all possible measures to ensure that children have no direct part in any conflict or war. It must ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international laws.

Article 39: Rehabilitative care

My Government has the responsibility to make sure that every child victim of armed conflicts, torture, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation receives appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration.

Article 40: Administration of juvenile justice

If I am in conflict with the law, I have the right to basic guarantees as well as legal or other assistance for my defense. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided, wherever possible.

Article 41: Respect for higher standards

I have the right to protection under the laws in my country or under the provisions of the UNCRC, whichever has a higher standard.

Article 42: Dissemination of the Convention

I have the right to learn about my rights and others also need to know about this Convention. My Government must ensure the active and wide dissemination of the principles and provisions of the Convention to adults and children alike.

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