

# United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child



**Article 01**  
If you’re under 18, you’re a child, and you have rights.

**Article 02**  
No matter the race, religion, ability, family unit, or the things they think and say, a child has rights under the Convention.



**Article 03**  
Everyone must work toward what is best for a child.

**Article 04**  
Governments must help children realise their rights.

**Article 05**  
Families must help protect children’s rights and be guided by the government to do so.

**Article 06**  
Children should enjoy good health.

**Article 07**  
A name and place to call home is every child’s right.

**Article 08**  
A child must have an identity and an official record of it.

**Article 09**  
A caring family is a child’s right. A child’s parents are its family, unless that family causes harm.



**Article 10**  
A child should be where its family is – all together.

**Article 11**  
No one can take a child illegally.

**Article 12**  
Children can give an opinion and expect it to be heard.

**Article 13**  
Children have the right to be shown, share and shape ideas and information, as long as it causes no harm.

**Article 14**  
Children can choose what to believe in, with guidance from their family about what’s right and wrong.



**Article 15**  
Children can join groups and make friends of their choosing.

**Article 16**  
Children have a right to privacy.

**Article 17**  
The mass media has a responsibility to provide information children understand and protect them from information they don’t.

**Article 18**  
Parents must share the responsibility of raising their children and be supported by society to do so.

**Article 19**  
Laws must protect children from being hurt or mistreated.

**Article 20**  
Respect for a child’s heritage must be considered if they can’t be cared for by their family.

**Article 21**  
If adopted by another family, all interests of the child are the first consideration.

**Article 22**  
If a refugee, a child should be protected by its host country.

**Article 23**  
If a child lives with a disability, they need care and support to live a full life.

**Article 24**  
Good health, clean water and nutritious food are child’s right.

**Article 25**  
Living arrangement for children in State care must be regularly reviewed.

**Article 26**  
Governments must help children who go without.

**Article 27**  
All children must have their basic needs met, no matter how disadvantaged or marginalised.

**Article 28**  
All children have the right to a free and fair education.



**Article 29**  
Education should develop a child to participate fully in their community.

**Article 30**  
It’s a child’s right to speak their language and practice their own culture.



**Article 31**  
Children have the right to play and rest.

**Article 32**  
Children must be safe from work that harms them or threatens their education.

**Article 33**  
Children must be made safe from dangerous drugs.

**Article 34**  
Children should be safe from sexual abuse.

**Article 35**  
Children should be safe from being abducted or sold.

**Article 36**  
Children should be safe from exploitation.

**Article 37**  
Children must be safe from being cruelly punished.

**Article 38**  
Children should be protected from war. Those 15 years and younger must not served in armed forces.

**Article 39**  
Children who break the law must be given fair treatment and jailed only as a last resort for the most serious offences.

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**Article 41**  
If a country’s laws better protect a child’s rights, it should take precedence to the Convention.

**Article 42**  
Children must know and have access to their rights.

**Article 43–45**  
These articles set out how society works to protect children’s rights.



In November 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is the most widely endorsed human rights treaty in the world. Australia endorsed the convention in December 1990 and since then has had a duty to ensure that all children in Australia enjoy the rights described in the treaty.