

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

Children's rights are a special case because many of the rights laid down in the convention on the rights of the child have to be provided by adults or the state.

However, the convention also refers to responsibilities of children, in particular to respect the rights of others, especially their parents (Article 29).

Here are some suggestions of the responsibilities that could accompany rights... If every child, regardless of their sex, ethnic origin, social status, language, age, nationality or religion has these rights then they also have a responsibility to respect each other in a human way.

If children have a right to be protected from conflict, cruelty, exploitation and neglect, then they also have a responsibility not to bully or harm each other. If children have a right to clean environment, then they also have a responsibility to do what they can to look after their environment.

If children have a right to be educated, then they have the obligation to learn as much as their

where possible, share their knowledge and experience with others.

If all children have a right to a full life, then they should also lend help to the needy, the disadvantage, and the victims of discrimination also enjoy this right.

If children have a right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, then they also have the obligation to respect others thoughts or religious



Derived from a Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities by an organisation called World Goodwill, composed of ex-heads of state.



Some CHILDREN'S RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

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RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES

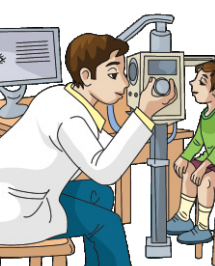
Children have the right to be taken seriously



...and the responsibility to listen to others



Children have the right to quality medical care



...and the responsibility to take care of themselves



RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Children have the right to a good education



...and the responsibility to study and respect their teachers



Children have the right to be loved and protected from harm



...and the responsibility to show love and respect to others



RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Children have the right to special care for special needs



...and the responsibility to be the best people they can be



Children have the right to be proud of their heritage and beliefs



...and the responsibility to respect to origins and beliefs of others



RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Children have the right to a safe and comfortable home



...and the responsibility to share in keeping it neat and clean



Children have the right to make mistake



...and the responsibility to learn from their mistakes



RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Children have the right to be adequately fed



...and the responsibility not to waste food



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CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



This is a summary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

for every child

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The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. In 1989, world leaders decided that children needed a special convention just for them because people under 18 years old often need special care and protection that adults do not.

The Convention sets out these rights in 54 articles and two Optional Protocols. It spells out the basic human rights that ALL children everywhere have: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

The CRC provides a firm ground to make a concrete start towards the progressive realization of the Rights of Children.

Article: 01

Everyone under 18 years of age has all rights in this conversation.

Article: 02

The conversation applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion, abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever family they come from.

Article: 03

All organizations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Article: 04

Governments should make these rights available for children.

Article: 05

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow they learn how to use their rights properly.

Article: 06

All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Article: 07

All children have the right to a legally registered name, and nationality. Also the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

Article: 08

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

Article: 09

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good. For example, if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

Article: 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between these countries so that parents and children can stay in contact, or get back together as a family.

Article: 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

Article: 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Article: 13

Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Article: 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide children on these matters.

Article: 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organizations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article: 16

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

Article: 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

Article: 18

Both parents should share responsibility in bringing up their children, and should also consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

Article: 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

Article: 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

Article: 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born, or whether they are taken to live in another country.

Article: 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

Article: 23

Children who have any form of disability should have special care and support, so that they can lead full and independent lives.

Article: 24

Children have the right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment, so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poor countries achieve this.

Article: 25

Children who are looked after by their local authority, rather than their parents, should have their situation reviewed regularly.

Article: 26

The government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

Article: 27

Children have a right to standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article: 28

All children and young people have the right to a primary education, which should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of.

Article: 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other culture.

Article: 30

Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

Article: 31

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in wide range of activities.

Article: 32

The government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.

Article: 33

The government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

Article: 34

The government should protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Article: 35

The government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

Article: 36

Children should be protected from all forms of exploitation that could harm their development.

Article: 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

Article: 38

Governments should not allow children under 16 to join the army.

Article: 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect.

Article: 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offence.

Article: 41

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the convention, then those laws should stay.

Article: 42

The government should make the convention known to parents and children.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child has 54 articles in all. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children get their rights.

The information in this brochure has been adopted from materials produced by UNICEF country offices and National Committees.