

DID YOU KNOW ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE RIGHTS?

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** changed the world by giving basic human rights to young people. Almost every country in the world has agreed to provide children with the rights laid out in this document, making it the most widely accepted Human Rights treaty in the world.

RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention at the Canadian Red Cross believes that respecting one another's rights is the first step in ending the cycle of violence.

CLIP, FOLD AND CARRY THIS CARD. SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH OTHER YOUTH.

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Everyone in the world under 18 has these rights.

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child respects the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents (and other adults who have legal or customary responsibility), to provide guidance to the child in a manner appropriate to the age and maturity of the child.

- the right to life
- the right to the highest standard of health possible, including through nutritious food, clean drinking water and a safe environment
- the right to be protected from physical, mental or sexual abuse, neglect or exploitation
- the right to a name, a nationality and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by his/her parents
- the right to maintain a relationship with both parents
- the right to keep his/her identity
- the right to protection against attacks on honour and reputation
- the right to an education
- the right to a standard of living that is adequate for physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development
- if disabled, the right to appropriate special care
- the right to information and materials from a wide variety of sources
- the right to freedom of thought and religion (Parents/guardians can provide direction in the exercise of this, according to the child's age.)
- the right to express her/his views in all matters that affect the child, and to have those views considered
- the right to enjoy his/her own culture and to use his/her own language
- the right to associate, interact or join together with other individuals
- the right to express himself/herself through speech, writing, art or other media
- the right to be informed of charges against the child and to have legal assistance
- the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty
- the right not to be imprisoned unlawfully, and if imprisoned, to be treated with humanity and respect
- the right not to be tortured or treated cruelly

Rights can only be limited by law when necessary to protect public safety or health, order, national security or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

"Child" means ALL children/youth under age 18, without discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political, opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE!



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NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ALL ADULTS WHO CARE ABOUT CHILDREN:

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child respects the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and others who have legal or customary responsibility, to provide appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise of the child's rights, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.

Adults have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the child

According to the Convention, parent(s) or others responsible for the child must secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development. Both parents share the responsibility for the child's well-being. States shall assist with this right, and in case of need will provide material assistance and support programs, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

States shall ensure children and youth are protected against

- abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation
- discrimination or punishment based on the activities, opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents/guardians or other family members
- discipline that does not respect the child's human dignity
- all forms of sexual exploitation (prostitution, pornography) and sexual abuse
- the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (as defined in the relevant international treaties), and the use of children in the production and trafficking of such substances
- the abduction of, sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.