

Article 35 – the government should make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

Article 36 – children should be protected from any form of exploitation not covered above.

Article 37 – children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. If deprived of liberty they should be separated from adults unless it's in their best interests not to do so. They have the right to maintain contact with their families.

Article 38 – children should be protected from armed conflict and should not be recruited into the army.

Article 39 – children who have experienced any form of abuse, torture or armed conflict should have access to recovery services.

Article 40 – children who break the law have the right to treatment which promotes the child's sense of dignity and worth, takes the child's age into consideration and aims to reintegrate them into society.

Article 41 – where a country's laws protect children better than the convention then the law should apply.

Article 42 – the government should make the convention known to adults and children.

Articles 43-54 of the Convention are about how adults and governments should work together to ensure children receive all their rights.

Children's Rights

Summary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 1 – the convention applies to everyone under the age of 18.

Article 2 – the convention applies equally to all children without discrimination.

Article 3 – all organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Article 4 – governments should make these rights available to children.

Article 5 – governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

Article 6 – every child has the right to life and governments should ensure the survival and development of children.



Article 7 – all children have the right to a name, a nationality, and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

Article 8 – governments should respect children's right to a name, nationality and family ties.

Article 9 – children should not be separated from their parents, or lose contact with their parents, unless it's in their best interests, for example, to ensure their safety.

Article 10 – families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact, or get back together as a family.

Article 11 – governments should take steps to prevent children being taken out of their own country illegally.

Article 12 – children have the right to express their views in relation to decisions that affect them, and to have these views taken into account.

Article 13 – children have the right to freedom of expression and access to information, as long as this is not damaging to them or others.

Article 14 – children have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion as long as this is not damaging to others. Parents have the right and the duty to guide children in these matters.

Article 15 – children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this is not damaging to others.

Article 16 – children have the right to privacy and the law should protect them against attacks on their way of life, their reputation, their families and their homes.

Article 17 – children have the right to reliable information from the mass media which is not harmful to them.

Article 18 – both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children and considering what is best for each child. The government should support them in this.

Article 19 – the government should ensure children are protected from all forms of abuse and neglect by those who look after them and should take action in response to such concerns.

Article 20 – the government should provide alternative care for children who cannot live with their own family and account should be taken of the child's ethnicity, religion, language and cultural heritage.

Article 21 – adoption procedures, including inter-country adoption, must operate in the best interests of the child and must be carried out by competent authorities.

Article 22 – special protection shall be granted to a child who has or is seeking refugee status.

Article 23 – children with disabilities have the right to special care, education and training to help them lead full and independent lives.

Article 24 – children have the right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. Richer countries should help poorer countries with this.

Article 25 – children looked after by the local authority should have their situation reviewed regularly.

Article 26 – a child has the right to benefit from social security.

Article 27 – children have a right to a decent standard of living and the government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 28 – children have a right to an education and discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity.

Article 29 – education should develop each child's potential and foster respect for others.

Article 30 – children of minority communities have the right to practise and enjoy their own culture, religion and language.

Article 31 – children have the right to play.

Article 32 – children have the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, development or education.

Article 33 – children have the right to be protected from the use of drugs and from being involved in their production or distribution.

Article 34 – children should be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse.