



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted on 20 November 1989 and came into force in September 1990. Every country in the world has signed the Convention although the USA and Somalia have yet to ratify it.

The Convention defines a child as someone who is below the age of 18 and applies to all children whatever their race, gender, religion or abilities; language or opinion; geographical, cultural or social origin; whether they have a disability or are rich or poor and that no child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Summary

All children have:

the right to live and be healthy, to have a name and to belong to a country.

the right to know and be cared for by parents as far as possible and to stay in contact with their families.

the right to express their beliefs and to respect the rights and freedoms of others.

the right to access information that affects their well-being, to know what is happening and have their views and opinions taken into account.

the right to be protected from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation.

the right to care and protection if they are adopted or fostered, special care and support if they have any kind of disability and special protection if they are refugees.

the right to safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean safe environment and the best health care possible.

the right to a primary education that develops their personality and abilities to the fullest and to be able to play and relax.

the right to a standard of living that meets their physical and mental needs.

the right to practice their own culture, language and religion.

the right to be protected from the effects of war.

the right not to be treated or punished in a cruel or harmful way.

Protective Behaviours supports all this within the first theme

We all have the right to feel safe all the time

Acknowledgement: This PB handout is based on the UNICEF summary of the 54 articles & 2 Optional protocols of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is freely available on the PB People and Protective Behaviours Training Partnership websites.

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