



Summary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 1: **Definition of a child.** *A child is recognized as a person under 18, unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier.*

Article 2: **Non-discrimination.** *All rights apply to all children, and children shall be protected from all forms of discrimination.*

Article 3: **Best interests of the child.** *All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The States shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged that responsibility, fail to do so.*

Article 4: **Implementation of rights.** *The State must do all it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.*

Article 5: **Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities.** *The State must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to provide guidance for the child that is appropriate to her or his evolving capacities.*

Article 6: **Survival and development.** *Every child has the right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.*

Article 7: **Name and nationality.** *Each child has the right to a name and nationality, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.*

Article 8: **Preservation of identity.** *The State has an obligation to protect, and if necessary, to re-establish the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.*

Article 9: **Separation from parents.** *The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is not in the child's best interest. The child has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.*

Article 10: **Family reunification.** *Children and their parents have the right to leave any country or enter their own to be reunited, and maintain the parent-child relationship.*

Article 11: **Illicit transfer and non-return.** *The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or holding of children abroad by a parent or third party.*

Article 12: **The child's opinion.** *Children have the right to express their opinions freely, and have their opinions taken into account in matters that affect them.*

Article 13: **Freedom of expression.** *Children have the right to express their views, obtain information, and make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.*

Article 14: **Freedom of thought, conscience and religion.** *Children have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.*

Article 15: **Freedom of association.** *Children have a right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.*

Article 16: **Protection of privacy.** *Children have the right to protection from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence, and from attacks on their character or reputation.*

Article 17: **Access to appropriate information.** *Children shall have access to information from national and international sources. The media shall encourage materials that are beneficial, and discourage those which are harmful to children.*

Article 18: **Parental responsibilities.** *Parents have joint responsibility for raising the child, and the State shall support them in this.*

Article 19: **Protection from abuse and neglect.** *Children shall be protected from abuse and neglect. States shall provide programs for the prevention of abuse and treatment of those who have suffered abuse.*

Article 20: **Protection of a child without family.** *Children without a family are entitled to special protection, and appropriate alternative family or institutional care, with regard for the child's cultural background.*

Article 21: **Adoption.** *Where adoption is allowed, it shall be carried out in the best interests of the child, under the supervision of competent authorities, with safeguards for the child.*

Article 22: **Refugee children.** *Children who are refugees, or seeking refugee status, are entitled to special protection.*

Article 23: **Disabled children.** *Disabled children have the right to special care, education and training that will help them to enjoy a full and decent life with the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.*

Article 24: **Health and health services.** *Children have the right to the highest possible standard of health and access to health and medical services.*

Article 25: **Periodic review of placement.** *A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.*

Article 26: **Social security.** *Children have the right to benefit from social security including social insurance.*

Article 27: **Standard of living.** *Children have the right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The State's duty is to ensure that this responsibility is fulfilled.*

Article 28: **Education.** *Children have the right to education. Primary education should be free and compulsory. Secondary education should be accessible to every child. Higher education should be available to all on the basis of capacity. School discipline shall be consistent with the child's rights and dignity.*

Article 29: **Aims of education.** *Education should develop the child's personality, talents, mental and physical abilities. Children should be prepared for active participation in a free society, and learn to respect their own culture and that of others.*

Article 30: **Children of minorities or indigenous populations.** *Children have a right, if members of a minority group, to practice their own culture, religion and language.*

Article 31: **Leisure, recreation and cultural activities.** *Children have the right to rest, leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.*

Article 32: **Child labour.** *Children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation, from having to participate in work that threatens their health, education or development. The State shall set minimum ages for employment and regulate working conditions.*

Article 33: **Drug abuse.** *Children have the right to protection from the use of drugs, and from being involved in their production or distribution.*

Article 34: **Sexual exploitation.** *Children shall be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.*

Article 35: **Sale, trafficking and abduction.** *The State shall take all appropriate measures to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.*

Article 36: **Other forms of exploitation.** *The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation that can harm any aspects of the child's welfare not covered in articles 32, 33, 34 and 35.*

Article 37: **Torture and deprivation of liberty.** *No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Capital punishment and life imprisonment are prohibited for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age. A child who is detained has the right to legal assistance and contact with the family.*

Article 38: **Armed conflict.** *Children under age 15 shall have no direct part in armed conflict. Children who are affected by armed conflict are entitled to special protection and care.*

Article 39: **Rehabilitative care.** *Children who have experienced armed conflict, torture, neglect or exploitation shall receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration.*

Article 40: **Administration of juvenile justice.** *Children in conflict with the law are entitled to legal guarantees and assistance, and treatment that promote their sense of dignity and aims to help them take a constructive role in society.*

Article 41: **Respect for higher standards.** *Wherever standards set in applicable national and international law relevant to the rights of the child are higher than those in this Convention, the higher standard shall always apply.*



Articles 42-54: **Implementation and entry into force.** *These refer to the administrative aspects of implementing the CRC.*