

# MY RIGHTS

THE CONVENTION ON  
THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



13-18 YEARS

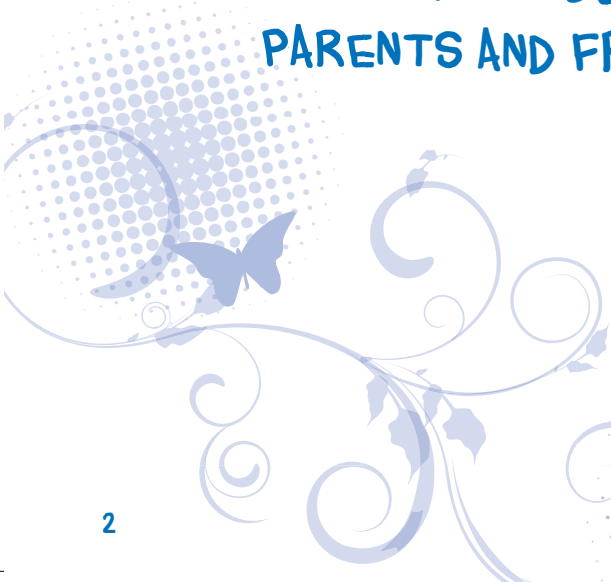
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# HELLO!

HERE YOU CAN FIND YOUR RIGHTS.  
THEY APPLY TO ALL CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

READ THEM THROUGH AND TALK  
ABOUT THEM AT YOUR SCHOOL,  
WITH YOUR TEACHERS,  
PARENTS AND FRIENDS.





# MY RIGHTS

Hello! Here you can find your rights. They have been included in the “UN Convention on the Rights of the Child”. The Convention applies to all children and young people around the world under the age of 18. It contains rights which are guaranteed for all children.

The agreement is officially called the "UN Convention on the Rights of the Child". A UN Convention is an agreement between different countries. Almost all countries around the world have ratified the Convention and signed the Rights of the Child. They therefore promise to implement and transpose these Rights of the Child into their national legislation.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child has 54 articles. The single articles deal with the different rights of children.

We have summarised your most important rights on the following pages.

Talk about your rights in school and with your teachers. Talk to your parents and your friends about the rights. It is very important for children and young people to be aware of their rights and help to explain them to other children and young people. Because only when you understand your rights well, will you be able to find out whether your own rights in school, at home and with friends are really being respected. You can always apply your rights and suggest how to improve them.



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989. At the UN General Assembly, the member countries of the United Nations (the UN) meet and decide together. The Convention contains, for example, the following children's rights:

- ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE SAME HUMAN VALUE!
- THE INTEREST OF CHILDREN SHALL ALWAYS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FIRST AND FOREMOST!
- THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN OPINION!
- THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS!
- CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY!
- ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE GIVEN INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS!

You can find more rights in the following pages. Further information and the full Convention can also be found at the Deutscher Kinderschutzbund (German Child Protection Association), which is committed to the pursuit of children's rights in Germany:

**Deutscher Kinderschutzbund Bundesverband e.V.**

Schöneberger Str. 15  
10963 Berlin

and on-line at:  
[www.dksb.de](http://www.dksb.de)

AND NOW  
**HAVE FUN**  
WHILE READING AND DISCUSSING!



## TO WHOM DOES THE CONVENTION APPLY

### ARTICLE 1/2

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child applies to all individuals under the age of 18 years, who are not yet of legal age.

Regardless of skin colour, social, cultural, or ethnic origin, gender, language, religion or disability, it is valid for all children and young people.



## THE INTEREST OF CHILDREN SHALL BE SAFEGUARDED.

### ARTICLE 3

Whenever courts, social services or other authorities take decisions, affecting children, they shall consider which decision is in the children's best interest.



## PUTTING RIGHTS INTO PRACTICE

### ARTICLE 4

The states, which have signed the UN Convention, undertake to adapt their own legislation, so that it is consistent with the Convention. They shall develop appropriate measures for the practical implementation of the Rights of the Child.

Whenever it is not possible for single countries to comply with the Convention, they should be supported by other states.

## PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY

### ARTICLE 5/18/26/27

Both parents are jointly responsible for the upbringing and development of their children. They should first think of the interest of the child. Parents should help their children to understand their rights and insist on them.

The states, which have signed the Convention, have agreed and stated that they are willing to support parents and other child carers.

Facilities where children and young people are in care, shall comply with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## RIGHT TO LIFE

### ARTICLE 6

Children and young people have the inherent right to life. The signatory states shall ensure the right to survival and the best possible development.



## RIGHT TO A NAME AND NATIONALITY

### ARTICLE 7/8

Each child and young person has the right to his or her own name and a nationality. The child shall be registered immediately after birth in a register of births.

As far as possible, children and young people should know and be cared for by their parents. No one shall deny a child and young person his or her identity.





## **CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS**

### **ARTICLE 9 / 10 / 11**

Children and young people should not be separated from their parents. Unless the parents are living separately or it is in the best interest of the child.

Whenever the parents are living separately, the child and young person has the right to see both parents often, so that a personal relationship is maintained. This is applicable wherever the parents may live.

Should either one of the parents be separated due to detention, imprisonment, deportation or death, children and young people have the right to know the whereabouts of the absent parent(s).

No child and young person may be detained abroad against his or her own will.

## **FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, EXPRESSION AND RELIGION**

### **ARTICLE 12/13/14**

Children and young people may express their views freely. They shall be listened to and taken seriously.

Children and young people have the right to obtain, receive and pass on information. They have the right to express themselves in writing or through artistic expression and in any other way, as long as this does not violate the rights of others.

Children's and young people's thoughts, opinions and religion shall be respected.





## **PRIVATE LIFE** ARTICLE 16

Children and young people have the right to legal protection from interference in their private life. Their letters or diaries belong to their private sphere.

No child and young person shall be subjected to unlawful interference in his or her privacy, family or home. Children and young people have a right to protection against unlawful attacks on their honour and reputation.



## **MEMBERSHIP TO ORGANISATIONS** ARTICLE 15

Children and young people may establish organisations or be members of organisations. They may participate in meetings, subject to the restriction that such participation does not violate the rights and freedom of others.

## **INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** ARTICLE 17

Children and young people have a right to information from newspapers, books, social media or television.

The signatory states should encourage the dissemination of books for children and young people. Children and young people, who speak a different language in a country, should be provided with materials in their own language.



## **VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

### **ARTICLE 19/34/39**

Parents may not abuse children and adolescents. The states, which have signed the Convention, must protect children and young people from physical abuse, sexual abuse and ill-treatment. Whenever parents are not able to protect their children, then state services shall provide for such protection.

Children and young people who are victims of violence have the right to help. All measures must be taken to restore their self-esteem and their dignity.



## **GROWING UP IN A FOSTER CARE FAMILY AND ADOPTION**

### **ARTICLE 20/21**

When children's or young people's development is put at risk in their own home and they are suffering the consequences, they have the right to grow up in other families/ foster care families.

Children and young people, without their own natural-birth family, may be adopted, whenever this is in the best interest of the child.

## REFUGEES ARTICLE 22

The rights of children and young people, who are forced to leave their homeland, shall be respected in their new country. They shall receive help and protection in the new country. This support includes, whenever children and young people want to trace their parents and want to live with them again.



Whenever the family of the child and young person cannot be traced, then a suitable new home shall be found.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARTICLE 23

Children and young people, who have physical or mental disabilities, have the right to actively participate in social life. They should receive the necessary technical support and help and a suitable education. Whenever parents cannot pay for this, the signatory states shall support parents financially.



## CARE OUTSIDE THE CHILD'S OWN FAMILY ARTICLE 25

When children or young people are placed outside their family, they have a right to have this measure regularly reviewed.

## RIGHT TO ENJOYMENT OF HEALTH ARTICLE 24

Children and young people have the right to medical treatment, whenever they need it. They have the right to health.

The right exists to adequate nutritious food and a healthy environment. Measures shall be taken for combatting environmental pollution and its hazards.

Children and their parents should receive information on health and healthcare.



All children and young people have the right to free primary education. Higher schooling, regular school attendance and a school leaving certificate should be made possible.

## RIGHT TO EDUCATION ARTICLE 28

Schools shall operate respecting the human dignity of the child/young person and in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The signatory states shall work together with the overarching objective that all children and young people have to chance to attend school and receive a suitable education.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES ARTICLE 29

The education of children and young people should be directed towards attaining specific objectives:

- Children and young people should be able to develop according to their own talents.
- Respect for human rights, cultural identity and the language of the child shall be encouraged.
- Children and young people should be adequately prepared for leading a responsible life as adults in a free, peaceful, tolerant society where equal opportunities are offered to both men and women.
- Children and young people should learn to treat other people and their culture with respect, as well as the natural environment.

## DETENTION IN PRISON AND PENALTIES ARTICLE 37

No child and young person may be arbitrarily deprived of his or her liberty. Any arrest and possible detention shall be in accordance with the law. Prison sentences should be ordered only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible. Children and young people have the right to legal representation or other assistance.

## RIGHT OF THE CHILD TO HIS OR HER OWN CULTURE ARTICLE 30

All children and young people have the right to their own cultural life, their religion and their language, even if they belong to a minority.



## **RIGHT TO RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **ARTICLE 31**

Children and young people have the right to their own recreational time and recreational activities suitable to their age. They should be allowed to participate in artistic and cultural life.

## **DRUGS**

### **ARTICLE 33**

Children and young people shall be protected against drugs by implementing suitable measures. Children and young people may not be used for the production and distribution of drugs.



## **CHILD TRAFFICKING**

### **ARTICLE 35**

The states that have signed the UN Convention shall take measures for the prevention of the kidnapping or sale of children and young people.

## **WORK AND EXPLOITATION**

### **ARTICLE 32/34/36**

Children and young people shall not be exploited as forced labour which endangers their health and development. Regulations shall be established for the minimum working age from which children and young people may undertake certain jobs.

Children and young people shall not be forced into sex-related activities and sexually exploited (e.g. through prostitution or pornography). The signatory states shall protect children and young people from harmful exploitation.



## **PARTICIPATION IN ARMED CONFLICTS AND WARS**

### **ARTICLE 38**

Children and young people shall be protected from armed conflicts.  
No child under the age of 15 years shall participate in armed conflicts.

## **JUVENILE COURT PROCEEDINGS**

### **ARTICLE 40**

The signatory states shall establish a minimum age, at which children and young people may be prosecuted. Each child and young person is considered innocent until proven guilty. Children and young people shall not be forced to testify in court as witnesses or to incriminate themselves. They have the right to be represented by independent legal counsel in court.

Children and young people who have committed a criminal offence shall receive guidance for their positive development and reintegration into society. Suspect or punished children and young people shall be treated with respect for their human dignity.

## **INFORMATION ON THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

### **ARTICLE 42**

All children and young people should be aware of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its subject matter shall be accessible to them, as well as to all adults. The signatory states shall be responsible

for the dissemination of the Convention.







## THE DEUTSCHER KINDERSCHUTZBUND

(GERMAN CHILD PROTECTION ASSOCIATION)

The Kinderschutzbund (German Child Protection Association) advocates the rights and interests of children and young people in Germany. The Kinderschutzbund has the aim of lobbying policymakers for the passing of suitable decisions for children and their parents and families. It has local associations in over 430 towns and cities across Germany. Through its local associations, it helps children and their families locally. It supports recreational activities, helps with homework or provides advisory and counselling assistance. The Deutscher Kinderschutzbund (German Child Protection Association) is open to all seeking help and support.

# LEGAL DISCLOSURE

**“MY RIGHTS”** are brochures for the dissemination of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child for children and young people. “My Rights” are available for three age levels:

- For pre-school children and primary schoolers (Part I, 5 to 8 year olds)
- For school children (Part II, 9 to 12 year olds)
- And teenagers (Part III, 13 to 18 year olds)

TITLE “My Rights”, part III, 13 to 18 year olds

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