

united nations convention on the **RIGHTS of CHILDREN & YOUTH**



Canada ratified this convention in 1991. All children and youth under the age of 18 have these rights. These rights say that every young person needs to be treated fairly and with respect, to be protected, to be provided the basic things they need to live and thrive, to have adults make decisions that are in their best interests, and that young people need to participate in decisions that affect them.

Article 1

Everyone under 18 has all these rights.

Article 2

You have the right to protection against discrimination. This means that nobody can treat you badly because of your colour, sex or religion, if you speak another language, have a disability, or are rich or poor.

Article 3

All adults should always do what is best for you.

Article 4

You have the right to have your rights made a reality by the government.

Article 5

You have the right to be given guidance by your parents and family.

Article 6

You have the right to life.

Article 7

You have the right to have a name and a nationality.

Article 8

You have the right to an identity.

Article 9

You have the right to live with your parents, unless it is bad for you.

Article 10

If you and your parents are living in separate countries, you have the right to get back together and live in the same place.

Article 11

You should not be kidnapped.

Article 12

You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 13

You have the right to find out things and say what you think, through making art, speaking and writing, unless it interferes with the rights of others.

Article 14

You have the right to think what you like and learn about different religions, with your parents' guidance.

Article 15

You have the right to be with friends and join or set up clubs, unless this interferes with the rights of others.

Article 16

You have the right to a private life. For instance, you can keep a diary that other people are not allowed to see.

Article 17

You have the right to collect information from the media—radios, newspapers, television, etc.—from all around the world. You should also be protected from information that could harm you.

Article 18

You have the right to be brought up by your parents, if possible.

Article 19

You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

Article 20

You have the right to special protection and help if you can't live with your parents.

Article 21

You have the right to have the best care for you if you are adopted or fostered or living in care.

Article 22

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee. A refugee is someone who has had to leave their country because it is not safe for them to live there.

Article 23

If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education to help you develop and lead a full life.

Article 24

You have a right to the best health possible, to medical care, and to information that will help you to stay well.

Article 25

You have the right to have your living arrangements checked and evaluated if you live away from your biological parents, for example, if you live in foster care.

Article 26

You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.

Article 27

You have the right to a good enough standard of living. This means you should have food, clothes, and a place to live.

Article 28

You have the right to education.

Article 29

You have the right to an education that develops your personality and abilities as much as possible, encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.

Article 30

If you come from a minority group, because of your race, religion or language, you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practice your own religion, and use your own language.

Article 31

You have the right to play and relax by doing things like sports, music and drama.

Article 32

You have the right to protection from work that is bad for your health or education.

Article 33

You have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs.

Article 34

You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse.

Article 35

No-one is allowed to kidnap you or sell you.

Article 36

You have the right to protection from of any other kind of exploitation.

Article 37

You have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way.

Article 38

You have a right to protection in times of war. If you are under 15, you should never have to be in an army or take part in a battle.

Article 39

You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected, or badly treated.

Article 40

You have the right to help in defending yourself if you are accused of breaking the law.

Article 41

If the place you live offers you better rights than what is in this convention, you are entitled to enjoy those rights.

Article 42

All adults and children should know about this convention. You have a right to learn about your rights and adults should learn about them too.

