



Citizenship

Let's explore children's rights!

Are you interested in learning more about your rights? Then this is the right place, as you will explore the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Get inspired to **apply your rights in your everyday life!**

Discipline area	Civic Education
Topic	Citizenship
Estimated time	2h
Learning goals	<p>If you go through the whole unit, you will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of what your rights as a child are • explore how to use your rights in practice • learn how to stand up for your rights <p>and also learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child • the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Warm-up

Let's first check how much you know about your rights.

- Who is protected by child rights?**
 - a Everyone under the age of 10
 - b Everyone under the age of 18
 - c Everyone under the age of 15
- When was the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child created?**
 - a 2001
 - b 1989
 - c 1951
- Why do children have their own rights?**
 - a To get all their wishes fulfilled
 - b To be allowed to decide when to do their house chores
 - c To be protected and respected

4. Together with your buddy **write down at least 6 rights you think you have as minors:**

Learn

1

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the main tool that guarantees the rights of every person of any gender under the age of 18. CRC has been ratified* by 196 countries - nearly every single country in the world. These countries can be held accountable to adhering to all the rules in CRC, which span from the right to education to the right to participate and protection from violence, among others. Look at the image on the next page.

Do some of the rights you listed before match with the rights protected by CRC? Which ones?

* Ratification: a country agrees to commit to implement an international treaty, like the CRC

2

The next step is to find out:

- a **Which** of your rights are most often violated?
- b **Where** these rights are violated – at school, at home, on the street, among friends, public places such as shops, cinemas etc or somewhere else (please specify where)?
- c **Who** violates those rights?

With your buddy conduct a real survey among your friends/schoolmates, using the above question and make a list of the top 5 violated rights.

Present your findings to friends and family. Together discuss what can be done so that these rights are respected.

Create

1

In the next few days look around and **identify when your rights are being respected or violated.** Write down your observations and after a week discuss them with your buddy, friends and family.

2

Together with your buddy, choose an issue concerning your rights as children. Create a drawing, a video, a poem or any other artwork which represents this issue or just write a text.

3

Read the short comic and find out what is the Committee on the Rights of the Child:

<p>1</p>  <p>DEFINITION OF A CHILD</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>NO DISCRIMINATION</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>MAKING RIGHTS REAL</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>NAME AND NATIONALITY</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>IDENTITY</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION</p>
<p>15</p>  <p>SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>PROTECTION OF PRIVACY</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>ACCESS TO INFORMATION</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>REFUGEE CHILDREN</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>REVIEW OF A CHILD'S PLACEMENT</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HELP</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>ACCESS TO EDUCATION</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>AIMS OF EDUCATION</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS</p>	<p>32</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK</p>	<p>33</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS</p>	<p>34</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE</p>	<p>35</p>  <p>PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING</p>
<p>36</p>  <p>PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION</p>	<p>37</p>  <p>CHILDREN IN DETENTION</p>	<p>38</p>  <p>PROTECTION IN WAR</p>	<p>39</p>  <p>RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION</p>	<p>40</p>  <p>CHILDREN WHO BREAK THE LAW</p>	<p>41</p>  <p>BEST LAW FOR CHILDREN APPLIES</p>	<p>42</p>  <p>EVERYONE MUST KNOW CHILDREN'S RIGHTS</p>
<p>43-54</p>  <p>HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS</p>	<h1>CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</h1>					

Correct answers

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. C

THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



The committee is a group of 18 experts in children's rights who come from all over the world. The experts are independent and selected by governments.

The Committee meets three times per year in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss how children's rights are being promoted and respected in each country that has signed the Convention.



These meetings are called sessions. The Committee also makes recommendations to each country on how they can improve children's rights.



All children are rights holders and your rights should be protected by your country.



You also have the right to voice your concerns on the situation of children's rights in your country.



You can express your views on topics that are most relevant to you such as education, health care, violence, environment or other.



You can decide how to express your opinion: by sending to the Committee a written report, creating a video, artwork, poems...or any other format that you like.



This will help the Committee to make recommendations to your government on how they can improve children's rights.



Create

4

Send your artwork or your text to them:

Mailing address
UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

E-mail
ohchr-crc@un.org

Reflect

From the Convention on the Rights of the Child pick one right that is most important to you.

Create a postcard in which you recreate a situation from your life in which this right should always be respected.

When you are done, discuss what to do, if this right is not respected. What professional or local organization could support you?