

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO BE ALIVE AND TO BE THE

So what does this Convention actually say?

The UN Convention has **54 articles**. Articles are different parts of the Convention that say what rights children have, and how the Government should protect those rights.

ARTICLE 1 A child is a person aged 17 or under.

ARTICLE 2 All the rights in this Convention belong to all children.

ARTICLE 3 Children must always be a top priority.

ARTICLE 4 Governments must do all they can to protect children's rights.

ARTICLE 5 Parents can give children advice and help about their rights.

ARTICLE 6 Every child has the right to be alive and to be the best person they can be.

ARTICLE 7 Every child has the right to a name and nationality, and to be cared for by both parents.

ARTICLE 8 Governments must protect the child's right to a name, a nationality and a family life.

ARTICLE 9 Every child has the right to keep in regular contact with both parents so long as this is the best thing for the child.

ARTICLE 10 Decisions about a child going to live in another country should be made quickly and fairly.

ARTICLE 11 Governments must work together to stop children being taken illegally to another country.

ARTICLE 12 Every child has the right to express his or her views, and those views must be taken seriously.

ARTICLE 13 Every child has the right to express him or herself and to receive all kinds of information and ideas (this is called freedom of expression).

ARTICLE 14 Every child has the right to have his or her own beliefs and religion.

ARTICLE 15 Every child has the right to meet people and to be outside in a group (this is called freedom of association).

ARTICLE 16 The law must protect every child's right to privacy.

ARTICLE 17 Governments must make sure children get lots of different information about all sorts of things. They should protect children from harmful information.

ARTICLE 18 Governments must support parents. Parents must always try to do what is best for children.

ARTICLE 19 Every child must be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment.

ARTICLE 20 Children who do not live with their parents have the right to extra protection.

ARTICLE 21 The child must be the top priority in adoption.

ARTICLE 22 Children who are refugees, or trying to be refugees, have the right to extra protection.



BEST PERSON THEY CAN BE

ARTICLE 23 Disabled children have the right to a full life, and to be part of the community.

ARTICLE 24 Every child has the right to the best possible health.

ARTICLE 25 Children who are in care or who live away from home for health reasons should have their care checked regularly.

ARTICLE 26 Governments must support every child's right to have enough money.

ARTICLE 27 Children have the right to get everything they need to develop fully.

ARTICLE 28 Every child has the right to education.

ARTICLE 29 Education is about helping children to develop fully as people.

ARTICLE 30 Children must never be stopped from enjoying their own culture, religion or language.

ARTICLE 31 Every child has the right to rest, play and to do things they enjoy.

ARTICLE 32 Children must be protected from harmful work.

ARTICLE 33 Governments must do everything to protect children from illegal drugs.

ARTICLE 34 Governments must protect children from being hurt sexually.

ARTICLE 35 Governments must do everything to protect children from being taken away or sold.

ARTICLE 36 Governments must protect children from all other harm.

ARTICLE 37 Every child has the right to protection from torture and very bad treatment.

ARTICLE 38 Children must be protected from wars and from joining the armed forces.

ARTICLE 39 Governments must give good support to children who have been abused or hurt.

ARTICLE 40 Children who are in trouble with the law have many extra rights, including the right to privacy, the right to a lawyer and, wherever possible, the right not to go to court or be sent to prison.

ARTICLE 42 Governments must tell everyone about all the rights in this Convention.

ARTICLES 41 TO 54 These articles say how children's rights should be checked, and how governments should promote, protect and respect all the rights in this Convention.

You can download a copy of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child from www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/childrens_rights

■ ■ I got involved with Get ready for Geneva because I believe that children deserve a voice, and part of having that voice is knowing their rights. ■ ■

Natalie, Get ready for Geneva steering group