

Article 30 Children of Minorities

Children of minority communities have the right to enjoy their own cultural and practice their own religion and language.

Article 31 Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Activities

Children have the right to leisure, play and to take part in cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32 Child Labor

Children have the right to be protected from work that may be harmful to their health, education or development. The State should set minimum ages for employment, and regulate working conditions.



Article 33 Drug Abuse

Children have the right to be protected from the use of illegal drugs, from being involved in their production and distribution.

Article 34 Sexual Exploitation

Every child has the right to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, including involvement in prostitution and pornography.

Article 35 Sale, Trafficking and Abduction

The State should make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

The "Optional Protocol 1" was introduced in May 2002 setting new standards to prevent the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography. This calls for tighter laws within countries for offenders, to protect victims, strengthen prevention efforts and help cooperation between different countries to combat these offences.

Article 36 Other Forms of Exploitation

The State should protect the child from all other forms of exploitation not covered in articles 32-35 above.

Article 37 Torture and Deprivation of Liberty

No child should be tortured or punished cruelly, given life imprisonment or capital punishment, be unlawfully arrested or deprived of liberty. Any child lawfully deprived of liberty has the right to appropriate treatment, to be separated from detained adults, contact with family and access to legal and other assistance.

Article 38 Armed Conflicts

Children have the right to protection in times of war. No child under 15 can take part in hostilities or be recruited in the armed forces. The State should provide care and protection to all children affected by armed conflict.

The "Optional Protocol 2" to the CRC on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, was introduced in May 2000. This limits the use of children in armed conflict. This means that a person must be 18 years old before he or she can take part in hostilities (instead of the age limit of 15 years stated in the CRC)

Article 39 Rehabilitative Care

The State should make sure that child victims of armed conflicts, torture, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation get suitable treatment to help them recover and lead a normal life.

Article 40 Administration of Juvenile Justice

If children are accused of committing an offence, they have the right to legal and other assistance. Trial and institutional placement should be avoided whenever possible.

Article 41 Respect for Existing Standards

If any standard in national law is higher than stated in this convention, the higher standard applies.

This Convention has been signed by Sri Lanka Government and Ratified in the year 1991

Implementation

Article 42

The State must make the rights contained in this convention widely known to both adults and children.

Article 43

The Committee on the Rights of Child comprised of 10 experts will examine the progress of implementing the Convention.

Article 44

The State has to submit a progress report to the Committee, 2 years after ratification and every 5 years thereafter.

State parties are to make their reports widely available to the general public in their own countries.

Article 45

Specialized Agencies, UN Agencies and other competent bodies can submit reports to the committee on the implementation of Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

The Committee calls for international assistance from the specialized agencies, on behalf of States, which request or indicate any need for technical advice or assistance.

Committee may recommended to the UN General Assembly to undertake studies on its behalf of specific issues relating child rights.

Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on information received from State parties.

Contact:



National Child Protection Authority
330, Thalawatugoda Road, Madiwela, Sri Jayawardenepura.
Sri Lanka.

Tel: 0112 778912-14 Fax: 0112 778915
Email: ncpa@childprotection.gov.lk | Web: www.childprotection.gov.lk

Child Rights & Responsibilities



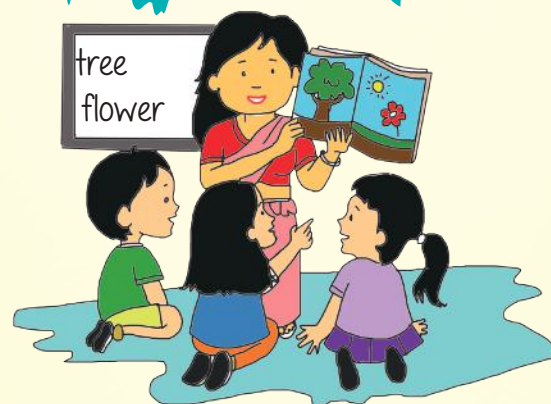
A simplified version of the
UN Convention on the RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
(CRC)



CHILD RIGHTS

The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) is an internationally accepted document that sets out the rights that all children have. Almost every country in the world including Sri Lanka accepts and says that the CRC will be the basis for the way they treat children.

Although it is the governments of the world that have signed the CRC, it is important that all citizens know and understand these right. Here is a simplified version of the CRC. These are Children's Rights.



Article 01 Definition of a Child

Everyone under 18 years is a child, and should enjoy all the rights mentioned in this Convention.

Article 02 Non - discrimination

All children have these rights whatever their age, sex, disability, color, race, language or religion. The state should protect children from all forms of discrimination and take action to promote the rights of children.

Article 03 Best Interest of the Child

All actions and decision concerning children should take full account of their best interests.

Article 04 Implementation of the Convention

The Government must do all it can to make a reality of the rights included in the convention.

Article 05 Parental Guidance and Child's Growth

The Government must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and family to provide guidance appropriate to the child's developing capacities.



Article 06 Survival and Development

Everyone should recognize that children have a right to life. The state should ensure the survival and development of children.

Article 07 Name and Nationality

Every child has the right to have a name from birth and be given a nationality, she/he has the right to know and be cared for by her/his parents.

Article 08 Preservation of Identity

The State must protect the Child's identity. If necessary, the State should re-establish the basic aspects of a child's identity (name, nationality and family ties).

Article 09 Separation from Parents

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is in the interest of the child (due to neglect, abuse etc.). If parents decide to live apart, the child has the right to be in contact with both parents, if separated from one or other, or both.

Article 10 Family Re-unification

Children and their parents have a right to leave any country and to enter their own in order to be reunited or to maintain the relationship between the child and her/his parents.

Article 11 Illicit Transfer and Non-return

The State should try to prevent and help to return children who have been kidnapped or kept abroad by force by a parent or another person.

Article 12 The Child's Opinion

Every child has the right to express an opinion, and to have that opinion taken into consideration, in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

Article 13 Freedom of Expression

The child has the right to information and to give any information to others and to express her/his view, unless this would violate the rights of others.



Article 14 Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion

Every child has the right to freedom to thought, conscience and religion, subject to parental guidance and national law.

Article 15 Freedom of Association

Children have the right to meet others and to join or set up associations, unless this violates the rights of others.

Article 16 Protection Privacy

Children have the right to a private life. They have the right to be protected from interference with their privacy, family, home and correspondence.

Article 17 Access to Appropriate Information

The State should make sure that each child has access to information and materials from a wide range of local and international sources, especially those which aim at her/his well being and respect the child's cultural background.

Article 18 Parental Responsibilities

Both parents should have joint responsibility for bringing up their children. The State should support parents to do this.

Article 19 Protection from Abuse and Neglect

Children have a right to be protected from all forms of abuse and negligence. Parents and other care givers have no right to hurt children. The State should undertake programmes to prevent and help children recover from abuse and neglect.

Article 20 Protection of Children without Families

Children who are unable to live with their families should have special protection. The state should find alternative family care or place the child in an institution that provides care according to the Child's cultural background.

Article 21 Adoption

If a child is to be adopted, it should be done legally and arranged in the best interest of the child.

Article 22 Refugee Children

If a child has to leave her/his home or country because it is not safe to live there, she/he has the right to special protection and help.

Article 23 Children with Disabilities

Children with mental or psychical disabilities have a right to special care, education and training designed to help them become as self-reliant as possible and lead a full and active life.

Article 24 Health and Health Service

Children have the right to be as healthy as possible. They should have access to health services, especially to primary and preventive health care, public health education and programmes for the reduction of infant mortality, disease and malnutrition.

Article 25 Periodic Review of Placement

A child who is placed outside the home by State, for care, protection or treatment, has the right to have all aspects of the placement evaluated regularly.

Article 26 Social Security

The child has the right to benefit from social security provisions available in her/his country.

Article 27 Standard of Living

Every child has the right to an adequate standard of living. The parent's first responsibility is to provide this. If parents cannot provide this, the State should help.



Article 28 Education

All children have the right to education. The State should make sure that, at least primary education is compulsory and is free of charge.

Article 29 Aim of Education

The purpose of a child's education is to develop his/her personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest. Education should also prepare them to live responsibly and peacefully in a free society, having respect for basic human rights, their own cultural and national values as well as those of others.

