

Rights of the Child

Every child is equal and has the same rights. "Rights" are things that every child should have or be able to do. They help guide what is best for children in certain situations and tell us what is important to protect us from harm. Almost every country on earth has agreed to the rights that are listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. As you grow, you will be able to make more choices on your own and to exercise your rights.



- 1** Everyone under 18 has all the rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. From now on, we will call the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the CRC.
- 2** The rights in the CRC apply to all children, including you! It doesn't matter what race or religion you are, the abilities you have, whether you are a boy or girl, what you think or say or what family you come from. All of you have the same rights equally.
- 3** All adults should do what is best for you and should think about how their decisions affect you.
- 4** The government has the responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. That means that the government must also help your family protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and live the best life possible..
- 5** Your family is responsible for helping you learn about your rights and to make sure that they are protected.
- 6** You have the right to be alive.
- 7** You have a right to a name and your name should be officially recognized by the government. You also have the right to belong to a country (this is known as nationality).
- 8** You have the right to an official record of who you are -- an identity! No one is allowed to take this from you.
- 9** You have the right to live with your parent or parents unless it is bad for you. You have the right to stay in contact with your family if you are separated.
- 10** You have the right to reunite with your family if they are living in a different country. The government will help you stay in contact with your family and allow you to travel in order to see your family.
- 11** You have the right to be protected from being kidnapped.
- 12** You have the right to give your opinion when adults are making decisions about you. Adults should listen to you and take your opinion into account.

- 13** You have the right to find out information about everything that is important to you, and share what you think with others. You can do this by drawing, writing, talking or in any other way as long as you don't hurt anyone.
- 14** You have the right to think and believe what you want and practice your own religion. Your parents also have an important role. They should help you decide what is right and wrong and what is best for you.
- 15** You have the right to choose your own friends and to join or set up groups or clubs as long as it is not harmful to other people.
- 16** You have the right to privacy. That means that you can keep your personal life private from others.
- 17** You have the right to get information that is important for your well-being. This can be from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults need to make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful to you. They should also help you understand the information you need.
- 18** You have the right to be raised by one or both of your parents if possible. Your parents should always consider what is best for you.
- 19** You have the right to proper care and to be protected from being hurt or mistreated.
- 20** You have the right to special care and help if your parents cannot care for you.

- 21** If you are adopted or in foster care, you have the right to care and protection.
- 22** You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee child and had no choice but to leave your home for another country. Refugee children also have all of the same rights in the CRC.
- 23** You should receive special care and support, including special education, if you have a disability so that you can live a full and independent life.
- 24** You have the right to good quality healthcare, to clean water, to nutritious food and to a clean environment so that you can stay healthy. Richer countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
- 25** If you are looked after by the local government rather than your parents, they should regularly check to make sure you are safe and healthy.
- 26** You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need.
- 27** You have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet your needs. This includes the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live.
- 28** You have the right to access full education. You should be encouraged to go to school and to reach the highest level of education you can.

- 29** Education should help you develop your personality, talents, and abilities. It should also encourage you to live peacefully and respect your parents and yourself, as well as others.
- 30** You have the right to learn and use your language, customs, and religion even if they are not shared with most of the people in the country you live in. Children from minority, or indigenous groups need special protection of this right.
- 31** You have the right to rest and play.
- 32** You have the right to be protected from being forced to do work that harms you or is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.
- 33** You have the right to be protected from harmful drugs and the sale of drugs.
- 34** You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.
- 35** No one is allowed to sell you or buy you in any way. Governments must make sure that you are protected from this.
- 36** You have the right to protection from being taken advantage of in any way (exploitation).
- 37** No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.
- 38** You have the right to be protected and free from war. Children under the age of 15 cannot go to the army or take part in war.
- 39** You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected or treated badly.
- 40** You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in a court.
- 41** If the laws of the country in which you live better protect your rights, then those laws should apply instead of the CRC.
- 42** You have the right to know your rights. Governments around the world must make sure that these rights are well-known by all children as well as adults.
-  The rest of the Articles (43 to 54) explain how governments and international organizations will ensure that children and their rights are protected.

About Stahili

Stahili is a non-profit organization that protects children, aids in their development, advocates for their rights, and provides education.

Do you want to learn more about the rights of the child? Check us out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/Stahili) or visit our website (www.stahili.org). For a full copy of the CRC see: bit.ly/1fGCcXV

