

**POCKET BOOK OF
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

What is UNICEF?

UNICEF was founded in 1946 after World War 2. During this time there was great hardship in Europe and UNICEF provided children with food, clothing and medicine.

Today, UNICEF is committed worldwide to improving the living conditions of children and to protect children's rights.

In many poorer countries of the world children are malnourished, engaged in child labour and some children even have to fight as soldiers. All over the world there are children that are for example beaten by their parents. Many children and adolescents also still cannot attend school.

Why Do Children's rights matter?

Children's rights are considered a part of human rights.

Children have the same human rights as adults and also specific rights that recognize their special needs. In 1989 the United Nations enacted the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** because children need additional protection.

They rely on adults, are more vulnerable and have to learn a lot, so that later, they can live independently.

However, there is still a lot to be done to ensure that children's rights are respected by everyone.

What is the convention on the Rights of the child?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a contract, which almost every country in the world (including Luxembourg) has signed to protect children and their rights.

The Convention explains who children are, their rights, and the responsibilities of governments. These rights are all connected, equally important and cannot be taken away from children.



What is written in the convention on the Rights of the Child?

The following pages contain simplified articles from the Convention on the Rights of the Child



The Convention on the Rights of the Child protects every child and adolescent under the age of 18.





All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability or if they are rich or poor.

When decisions are made, its effect on children should be considered. All adults should do what is best for children.



Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child can enjoy all the rights in the Convention. They also have to ensure laws exist to protect these rights.



Your family has to make sure that your rights are protected and help you to understand them and use them in the best possible way.



You have the right to be alive. Governments must make sure that you survive and develop in the best possible way.



7

NAME AND
NATIONALITY

You must be registered when you are born. You have the right to a name, birth certificate and nationality (belong to a country).

Whenever possible, you should know your parents and be looked after by them.



8



IDENTITY

You have the right to your own identity. This includes your name, nationality and family relations.

You have the right to live with your parents unless you are not properly looked after.

You have the right to stay in contact with both parents unless this might harm you.

9



KEEPING FAMILIES
TOGETHER





If you live in a different country than your parents, governments must let you and your parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.



No one is allowed to kidnap you.

You are not allowed to be taken out of the country by a parent when the other parent does not agree.

You have the right to give your opinion freely on issues that affect you. Adults should listen and take you seriously.





You have the right to share freely with others what you learn, think and feel, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms other people.



You can choose your own thoughts, opinions and religion. Your parents can guide you so that as you grow up, you learn to properly use this right.



SETTING UP OR
JOINING GROUPS

You can join or set up groups or organisations, and you can meet with others, as long as this does not harm other people.

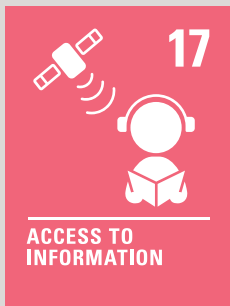


16



PROTECTION
OF PRIVACY

You have the right to privacy.



You have the right to get information from the Internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources. Adults should make sure the information you get is not harmful. Governments should encourage the media to share information in languages that all children can understand.

18



RESPONSIBILITY
OF PARENTS

You have the right to be brought up by your parents. Governments should make sure that there are childcare facilities, which allow their jobs to be compatible with your upbringing.

Governments must protect you from violence, abuse or neglect.

19



PROTECTION FROM
VIOLENCE

20



CHILDREN
WITHOUT FAMILIES

If you do not live with your parents, you have the right to be looked after by someone else.



When children are adopted, the most important thing is to do what is best for them.



Children who move from their home country to another country as refugees, because it was not safe for them to stay there, should get help and protection and have the same rights as children born in that country.



23

CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES

Governments should remove all obstacles for children with disabilities to become independent and to participate actively in the community.



24



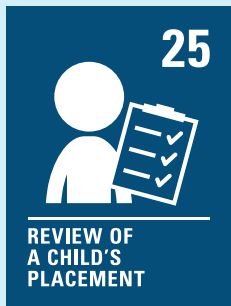
HEALTH,
WATER, FOOD,
ENVIRONMENT

All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.

You have the right to:

- the best health care possible
- clean water to drink
- healthy food
- a clean and safe environment





If you do not live at home, but in a foster home or family, you have the right to have your situation checked regularly to see if everything is going well and if this is still the best place for you to be.



You have the right to social security such as health care, accident and social insurance.



You have the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live so you can develop in the best possible way. The government should help families and children who cannot afford this.



28



ACCESS TO
EDUCATION

You have the right to an education. Primary education should be mandatory and free.

Every child should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible.

Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, culture and differences.



29



AIMS OF
EDUCATION

30



MINORITY CULTURE,
LANGUAGE AND
RELIGION

You have the right to choose your own language, culture and religion.

You have the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities.

31



REST, PLAY,
CULTURE, ARTS





You have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or bad for your education, health or development. If you do work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.



Governments must protect children from taking, making, carrying or selling harmful drugs.



You have the right to be protected from sexual exploitation.

No one has the right to kidnap or sell you.



You have the right to be protected from all other kinds of exploitation.



If you break the law you should not be killed, tortured, treated cruelly, put in prison forever or put in prison with adults. Prison should only be the last choice.



You have the right to be protected during war. No child under 15 can join the army or take part in war.





You have the right to get help if you have been hurt, neglected or treated badly so you can recover and can get back your health and dignity.



If you are accused of breaking the law, in court you have the right to legal help and fair treatment.

Prison should always be the last choice and only for the shortest possible time.



If the laws of your country protect children's rights better than this Convention, then those laws should be used.



You have the right to know these rights! Adults need to know this Convention and help you understand your rights.

43-54



HOW THE
CONVENTION
WORKS

These articles explain how governments and adults work together to make sure all children enjoy all these rights.



UNICEF Luxembourg
6, rue Adolphe Fischer
L-1520 Luxembourg
Phone: (+352) 44 87 15
E-mail: contact@unicef.lu

unicef 
fir all Kand