

The UN CONVENTION on the  
**RIGHTS**  
of the **CHILD**



UNA-UK

[www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Associated Schools

[www.unesco.org.uk](http://www.unesco.org.uk)



Dignity and justice for all of us

**“Children are not  
mini-people. They have  
rights — not mini-rights”**

**Maud de Boer-Bouquiccio, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe**



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- Some human rights are based on our **physical needs**.  
*The right to life. To food. To shelter.*
- Other human rights **protect us**.  
*The right to be free from torture, cruel treatment and abuse.*
- Human rights are also there to ensure we **develop to our fullest potential**.  
*The right to education. To work. To participate in your community.*

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**Nobody can take your rights away.**



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**It is vital that all young people know their rights!**



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Human rights were **officially recognised** as values by the world when the United Nations was set up.

# What is the **UNITED NATIONS?**



- The United Nations is an **international organisation** that was **established in 1945**, the year the Second World War ended.
- Its founders hoped it would be able to **prevent catastrophes like the Holocaust** from happening in the future.
- So **promoting human rights** became an aim of the UN, along with **maintaining international peace** and **reducing poverty**.



Are  
**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**  
different from human rights?

**No! Children's rights are not different from those held by adults.** But children can be more vulnerable and require special protection. Adults therefore have special responsibilities towards children.

The UN decided that children should have a human rights treaty created just for them.

The result was the **Convention on the Rights of the Child.**



What's so good  
**ABOUT THE CRC?**

- **universal**
- **unconditional**
- **innovative**
- **holistic**



# How does the **CRC PROTECT CHILDREN** in the UK?

The UK decided to sign up to the CRC in 1991. By doing so, it pledged to take all necessary steps to make children's rights a reality.

## **Steps taken so far include:**

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Every Child Matters
- Youth Capital Funds
- Children Act 2004
- Children's Commissioners



Who makes sure  
**THE GOVERNMENT**  
fulfils its pledges?





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reports



**UN  
Committee  
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child poverty

child  
trafficking



# PARTICIPATION RULES!

All of us, children included, share the responsibility for protecting children's rights.

**Children can make a huge difference**  
and many already do – here is one example:

Voice is an organisation led by young people from across the UK. It aims to make the views of 16-25 year olds heard. The group encourages young people to take a stand against carrying weapons and promotes an honest debate on drugs. It looks at what opportunities exist for the homeless young and campaigns for balance in reporting on teenagers. Voice also offers practical help to young people who want to develop skills like public speaking. Read more on [www.ukyouth.org](http://www.ukyouth.org)

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[www.unesco.org.uk](http://www.unesco.org.uk)