

United Nations
Convention on the
Rights of the Child

YOU HAVE RIGHTS



know them and share them with others



YouthLaw
Tino
Rangatiratanga
Taitamariki



CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER

UNCROC

United Nations Convention on the Rights Of the Child

UNCROC is an agreement between 193 countries that spell out the rights of ALL children and young people under 18 years.

Our Government has to make sure all children and young people are enjoying their rights. That means the Government is responsible for making sure you and your parents know about and understand UNCROC. But the Government doesn't do this alone. All adults and organisations concerned with children and young people should work together to make sure your rights are supported.



Rights are all about RESPECT
people respecting your rights
and you respecting theirs.



what are my rights?

UNCROC is divided into things called “articles”. Each article explains different rights. The following pages give you the low down on your rights under UNCROC.

Articles 1 and 2

Everyone has rights - no discrimination!

Everyone under 18 years of age has rights in this Convention. You have rights no matter who you are, what you look like, what your sex, sexual orientation, culture or religion is, if you are rich or poor, speak a different language or have a disability.

Article 3

What's best for you

Adults should always work towards what is best for you and put your well-being first.

Articles 4,5 and 6

Making your rights a reality

The Government must do everything it can to make these rights a reality for you.

The Government must respect the role of your parents, guardian or family/whanau in providing you with appropriate guidance.

The Government must make sure that children and young people can survive and develop in a healthy way.



Articles 7 and 8

Your right to an identity

You have the right to protect and preserve your identity, including your name, nationality and family ties. The Government should do what it can to help you re-establish your identity if it is ever taken away from you.

Articles 9 and 10

Living with your family

You have the right to live with, or stay in contact with your family/whanau unless this is harmful to you. If you are separated from your family, you also have the right to see them or be re-united with them.

Article 11

Your right to be protected from abduction

You have the right to expect that the Government will do all it can to make sure you are not removed from your family or taken out of the country illegally.

Article 12

Having your say - participate and be heard

You have the right to have your views heard, considered and taken seriously in a way that is appropriate given your age and ability, especially when decisions are being made that affect you.

Articles 13 and 14

Freedom of expression, thought and religion

You have the right to express yourself and think for yourself as long as you don't hurt anyone.

You have the right to your own religion and beliefs. The Government should respect your parents or guardian's role in guiding you with this.

Article 15

Friends, groups and clubs

You have the right to choose your own friends and be involved in groups or clubs as long as it's legal and won't hurt you or anyone else.





Article 16

Your right to privacy

You have the right to legal protection from unlawful or unreasonable interference with your privacy (including personal information held about you), your family and home life, and your communications.

You also have the right to legal protection from any unlawful attacks on your reputation.

Article 17

Your right to information

You have the right to be informed. This means having access to information that you can understand, trust and that's important for you to know. The media has an important role to play in this and should not promote stuff that could harm you.

Articles 18,19 and 20

Your rights at home

You have the right to live with and be raised by your parents or family/whanau unless you are being harmed.

You have the right to be protected from violence, abuse and neglect by your parents or caregivers. If your parents or family/whanau can't look after you properly, the Government must make sure that you live somewhere that is safe, where people respect you, your religion, culture and language.

Article 21

Your rights if you are adopted

If you are adopted, your adoption must be legal. You also have the right to the best care and to have your well-being put first.

Article 22

Your rights as a refugee

You have the right to special protection and help if you're a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in a different country). You also have the same rights as other children and young people born in New Zealand.





Article 23

Your rights if you have a disability

If you have a physical, mental or intellectual disability, you have the right to reach your full potential. You have the right to extra help with your education, care and support if you need it.

Article 24

Your rights to health and health services

You have the right to the best health care available, including dental, sexual and mental health services. You also have the right to clean water, nutritious food, and a safe environment to help you stay healthy.

Article 25

Your rights in foster care

If you are placed in foster care then you have the right to have your living arrangements regularly checked to make sure that they are working out well for you.

Articles 26 and 27

Your right to a good standard of living

You have the right to financial support from the Government, especially when your family/whanau cannot provide this for you. This includes your right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and other basics.



Articles 28 and 29

Your rights to education

You have the right to a good quality education that helps you develop your personality, talents and abilities to the full. You should be treated with respect and be encouraged to respect other's rights and values. Discipline in schools should respect your dignity.



Article 30

Your cultural rights

You have the right to learn about and practice your own culture, language and religion. If you are from a minority or indigenous culture you have the right to special protection from things that might stop you from being you.

Article 31

Your right to play, cultural, sporting and recreational activities

You have the right to rest, play and be involved in things like sports, music, arts, drama and cultural activities. The Government should promote and encourage this.

Article 32

Your rights at work

You have the right to safe working conditions and to be paid for your work. You also have the right to be protected from work that is harmful to you and your education.

Articles 33 to 39

Your right to be protected from harm and exploitation

You have the right to be safe from all forms of abuse, sexual assault and exploitation, war, drugs and the drug trade, kidnapping, torture, cruel and harmful punishment.

You should not be placed in prison or detained except as a last resort. You should not be placed in prison or detained with adults, unless it's in your best interests.

The Government must do everything it can to help children and young people who have suffered from any of these things.







Article 40

Your rights if you are in trouble with the law

If you are in trouble with the law, you have the right to be treated fairly by the justice system in a way that respects your rights. You have the right to a fair hearing, legal help and representation.

You should not be placed in prison or detained except as a last resort. You should not be placed in prison or detained with adults, unless it's in your best interests (see Article 37).

Articles 41 to 54

These are about how adults and Governments should work together to make sure that all children and young people's rights are respected.

Remember UNCROC is a tool to be used by you, the children and young people of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Get informed, connect to each other, mobilise, express yourselves and take action on issues that are important to you, your community, and your world.

So play a part in shaping Aotearoa/New Zealand. Have a voice, speak out, stand up and get involved.

We ALL have something to contribute!

For more information on UNCROC check out 'Your Rights' in the children and young people's spaces at:

www.occ.org.nz

If you have any questions about your rights under UNCROC or you have any issues you would like to talk to us about, you can contact us at:



YouthLaw Tino Rangatiratanga Taitamariki

YouthLaw provides FREE LEGAL SERVICES for children and young people nationwide.

Phone: (09) 309 6967

(free call: dial 010 and follow the instructions)

Advice Line 10am - 4pm, Monday to Friday

Website: www.youthlaw.co.nz

Email: info@youthlaw.co.nz



Presented by a Crown Entity, established 2002
**CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

The Office of the Children's Commissioner

The Office of the Children's Commissioner is an Independent Crown Entity and promotes children's and young people's rights through advocacy, consultation, research, monitoring and investigation. The Office also provides FREE advice to children and young people through the Child's Rights Line:

Freephone: 0800 224 453

www.occ.org.nz

Email: advice@occ.org.nz

This resource was created by the Office of the Children's Commissioner and YouthLaw Tino Rangatiratanga Taitamariki. It has been developed in consultation with the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Young People's Reference Group and other young people.

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