

# The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Education

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## UNCRC?

“The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally-binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.”

*(Save the Children, 2015)*

## The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Education

- *What does the Convention actually say about schools?*
- *Can the Convention serve as a meaningful instrument for decision making in the Schools?*

## Norms on Education in the Conventions

- **Article 28:** Right to education
  - Primary education
  - Secondary education
- **Article 29:** Goals of education
- Other Articles:
  - **Article 19:** Protection from all forms of violence
  - **Article 22:** Rights of refugee children
  - **Article 23:** Right of children with disabilities
  - **Article 24:** Right to quality health care



▪ Other Articles:

- **Article 30:** Children forming part of minority groups
- **Article 31:** The right to leisure and play
- **Article 32:** Child labour
- **Article 33:** Protection against drugs
- **Article 34:** Protection from sexual abuse
- **Article 37 and Article 40:** Penal Institutions and Juvenile justice
- **Article 38:** Children in war and armed conflicts

## General principles

▪ **Non-discrimination (Article 2)**

1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without **discrimination of any kind**, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

2. States Parties shall take all **appropriate measures** to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

**Non-discrimination (Article 2)**

- Have all children access to education without discrimination?
- Is education designed to meet the needs of each child, irrespective of his or her background or language?
- Does the school promote tolerance and understanding of children who are different?

• Case : Deaf Children (2011)



## General principles

▪ **Best interest of the Child (Article 3)**

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the **best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration**.

2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such **protection and care** as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.

3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, **services and facilities** responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

### **Best interest of the Child (Article 3)**

- *Are educational materials, school buildings and other facilities adequate?*
- *Are the school curricula developed in the best interests of the child?*
- *Is meaningful vocational guidance given?*
- *Are the teaching methods child-friendly?*

## General principles

### ▪ **The Right to Life, Survival and Development (Article 6)**

1. *States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.*
2. *States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.*

### **The Right to Life, Survival and Development (Article 6)**

- *What possibilities are established for early childhood development?*
- *Does the school encourage the development of the children's personalities, talents and abilities "to their fullest potential?"*

## General principles

### ▪ **The Views of the Child (Article 12)**

1. *States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to **express** those **views** freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.*
2. *For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.*

### **The Views of the Child (Article 12)**

- *Are children listened to?*
- *Can they complain against a decision in school?*
- ....

## Agenda: School reform

- **Universal Access to education**
  - High costs
  - Environment and facilities
  - Discrimination
  - Parental attitudes
  - School failures
- **Equal opportunities**
  - Early Childhood Education
  - Girl's Education
  - Children with Special Educational Needs (Inclusive Education)



## Agenda: School reform

- **The appropriate content of education**
  - New Methods of learning – Child Oriented Schools
  - Mutual respect



## Agenda School reform

- **Participation**
  - The role of teachers, parents and the community
  - Pupil's participation
  - Measures for Implementation

## Conclusion ....

## Illustrations

- Equal opportunities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZdliEhJkw>

- Mutual respect:

<http://edition.cnn.com/videos/health/2016/11/04/>

[baltimore-school-replaces-detention-meditation-orig.cnn](http://edition.cnn.com/videos/health/2016/11/04/baltimore-school-replaces-detention-meditation-orig.cnn)