

This is a selection of Articles from the
Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Which of these rights are upheld by the work of
SOS Children's Villages?

Definition of a Child

A child is a person under 18, unless national laws recognise adulthood earlier.

Best interests of the child

All actions concerning the child shall be in his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with care when parents fail to do so.

Survival and development

Every child has the right to life, and the State must ensure the child's survival and development.

Name and nationality

The child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.

Preservation of identity

The State must protect, and if necessary, re-establish basic aspects of the child's identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.

Separation from parents

The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is deemed to be not in the child's best interests. The child also has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.

Illicit transfer and non-return

The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention of children abroad by a parent or third party.

The child's opinion

The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account.

Freedom of expression

The child has the right to express his or her views, obtain information, and make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.

Protection of privacy

Children have the right to protection from interference with privacy, family, home, and correspondence, and from libel or slander.

Parental responsibilities

Parents have joint primary responsibility for raising the child, and the State shall support them in this. The State shall provide appropriate help to parents in child-raising.

Protection from abuse and neglect

The State shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or other responsible for the care of the child and establish appropriate social programmes for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

Education

The child has a right to education, and the State's duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child, and to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity.

Standard of living

Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The State must ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled, and is.

Protection of a child without family

The State must provide special protection for a child without a family and to ensure that alternative family care or institutional placement is available.