

About the CRC



What is it?

- The 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' is an agreement written by the member countries of United Nations about the rights of children and young people. We will call it 'CRC' for short.



What does it say?

The CRC lists over **40** rights belonging to children and young people called 'Articles', including:

- ✓ The right to express your views and have them taken into account in matters that affect you (Article 12)
- ✓ The right to be free from all forms of violence (Article 19)
- ✓ The right to play, rest and leisure (Article 31)

The CRC says that in any decision about you, what is best for you should be a top priority. Check out the More Info page to learn more about all the rights in the CRC.

Is it for me?

The CRC is for everybody below the age of **18**. Some rights in the CRC protect certain groups of young people. For example if you are living away from home or you've had to escape the country you were born in, there are rights to make sure you are treated fairly and your needs are met.

Every child has the right to rest, play and leisure

Every child has the right to be safe

Is it for me?



Why is it only for under 18s?

All people have human rights and there are lots of agreements about these. The CRC is for children and young people because childhood is a time when they need different things and different protections from adults.

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Is the CRC law?

In 1991 the UK government promised it would do its best to make sure the CRC rights are respected for children and young people. **194** countries have also promised this, making it the world's most popular human rights agreement!

The CRC is part of international law. ✓

It is not yet law in the UK. ✗

But there are some laws in the UK that protect CRC rights. Have a look at the **CRC in the UK** Factsheet.



Can children's rights be ignored?



No, the CRC can't just be ignored.

Every 5 years the UK Government has to tell a United Nations Committee of experts how well the governments in the UK are doing at respecting and protecting children's rights. For more information check out the **How it Works** Factsheet.

Although the CRC is not UK law, it is an international legal document the UK Government has promised to follow. Courts and other officials can use the CRC to help them make decisions affecting children and young people.

For more information check out the **CRC in the UK** Factsheet.

Are people who don't respect my rights breaking the law?



Not always. Laws in the UK protect some of the rights in the CRC. For example, teachers can't hit pupils and social workers have to take the wishes and views of young people seriously.

Also, some of the rights in the CRC such as the right to life, the right to family life, the right to express yourself and not be discriminated against are protected in laws such as the Human Rights Act and the Equality Act.

For more information check out the **CRC in the UK** Factsheet.

Why do I need the CRC?

It's a human rights agreement just for children and young people! It sets out the things that you are entitled to and the kind of treatment you can expect. You can also get involved in checking how well the Government is doing on children's rights.

For more information read the **Getting Involved** Factsheet.