



Kummissarju għat-Tfal  
Commissioner for Children

# the united nations convention on the rights of the child

As children under the age of 18 you have the right to be happy, to grow up into a mature adult, be protected from anything that may cause you harm and to express yourselves as you wish without harming yourselves and others. Your rights are listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Malta agreed to respect this Convention in 1990. Get to know more about your rights by reading the articles below and by talking about them with your family, other adults who care for you, friends and teachers at school.

**REMEMBER -** These are your rights and you have the responsibility to use them well. Keep in mind that other persons have the same rights as you do, so you should always respect the rights of others.

<sup>1</sup>These are based on the UNICEF Child Friendly Version of the UN CRC.

## Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has these rights.

## Article 2

All children are equal. There is no reason why children should be treated unfairly.

## Article 3

All adults should do what is best for you. When adults take decisions in your name, they should think about how their decisions will affect you.

## Article 4

The Government has a responsibility to make sure that your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

## Article 5

Your family has the responsibility to help you learn how to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are respected.

## Article 6

You have the right to be alive.

## Article 7

You have the right to be registered at birth and to have a name and a nationality.

## Article 8

You have the right to your unique identity and no one should take this away from you.

## Article 9

You have the right to live with your parents, unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live within a family who cares for you.

## Article 10

If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together with them in the same place.

## Article 11

Governments should take measures to protect children from being taken from one country to another without permission.

## Article 12

You have the right to give your opinion. Adults are to listen to what you have to say and take it seriously.

## Article 13

You have the right to seek information and to share your opinion with others by talking, drawing, writing, or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

## Article 14

You have the right to choose your religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

## Article 15

You have the right to choose your friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

## Article 16

You have the right to privacy.

## Article 17

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

## Article 18

You have the right to be raised by your parent(s) if possible.

## Article 19

You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

## Article 20

You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

## Article 21

You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

## Article 22

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee. You also have all the rights mentioned in this Convention.

## Article 23

If you have a disability, you have the right to special education and care in order to reach your full potential. You also have all the rights mentioned in this Convention.

## Article 24

You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment and information to help you stay healthy.

## Article 25

If you live in residential care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.

## Article 26

You have the right to help from Government if you are poor or in need.

## Article 27

You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live in and to have your basic needs met. You should be able to do what other children of your age can do.

## Article 28

You have the right to quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible that you can achieve.

## Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

## Article 30

You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion. Minority groups need special protection of this right.

## Article 31

You have the right to play and rest.

## Article 32

You have the right to protection from work that harms you and is bad for your health and education. If you are of age when you can work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

## Article 33

You have the right to protection from drugs and from those who sell drugs.

## Article 34

You have the right to be free from all forms of abuse including sexual abuse.

## Article 35

No one is allowed to kidnap you or sell you.

## Article 36

You have the right to be protected against any kind of exploitation or being taken advantage of because of your age.

## Article 37

No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

## Article 38

You have the right to protection from wars. If you are under 15 years of age you cannot be forced to become a soldier or take part in war.

## Article 39

You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

## Article 40

If you break the law, you have the right to legal help (lawyer) and fair treatment that respects your rights as a minor.

## Article 41

If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.

## Article 42

You have the right to know your rights! Adults too should know about these rights and help you to learn about them.

## Articles 43 45

These articles explain how Governments and international organisations like UNICEF will work to ensure that children are protected with their rights.

