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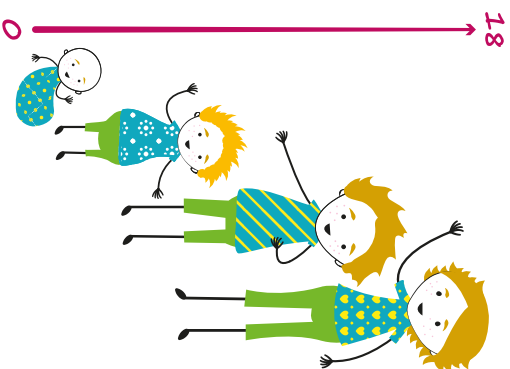
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Definition of a child

Article 1

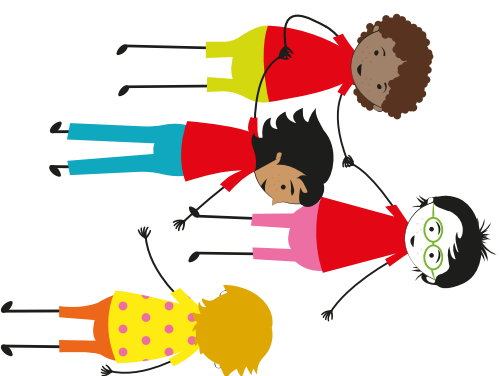
A child means every human being below the age of eighteen years.



Freedom from discrimination

Article 2

All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis..



The child's best interest

Article 3

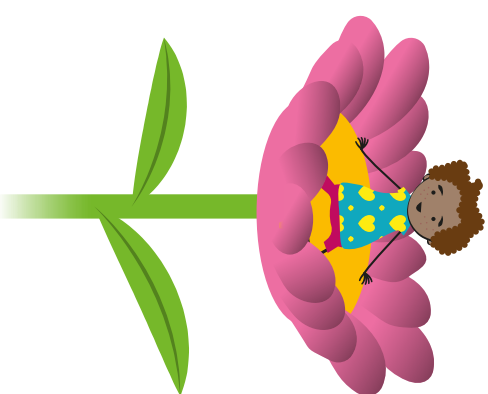
In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. When adults or institutions make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.



Right to life and development

Article 6

Every child has the right to live and grow well. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.



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Birth registration, name, nationality and parent care

Article 7

Every child has the right to a name, and this should be officially recognised by the government. Children have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

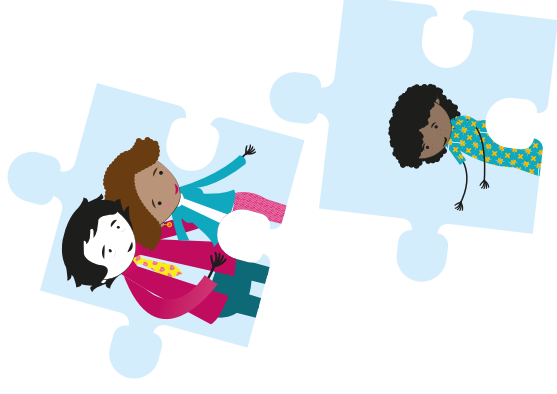


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Family reunification

Article 10

If the parents live in different countries, children should be allowed to move between those countries—tries to stay in contact with their parents or get back together as a family. States must respect the right of the children and their parents to leave any country, including their own, and to enter their own country.



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Non-separation from parents

Article 9

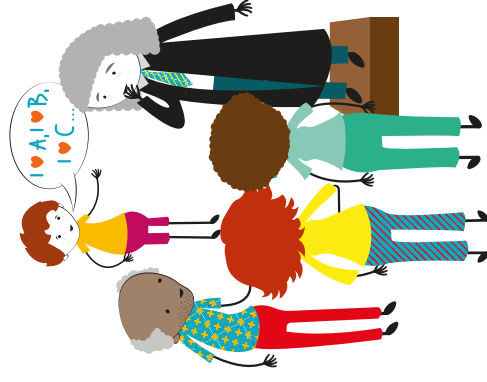
Children have the right to live with their parent(s), unless it is bad for them (for example, if a parent mistreats or neglects them). If the parents have separated, children have the right to stay in contact with both of them unless this might hurt them.



Respect for the child's opinion

Article 12

When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say freely what they think should happen and to have their opinions taken into account.



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Freedom of expression and information

Article 13

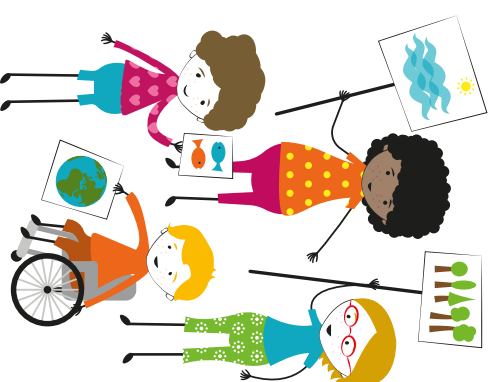
Children have the right to seek, get and share information in all forms (e.g. through writing, art, tel-e-vision, radio and the Internet) as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.



Freedom of association and peaceful assembly

Article 15

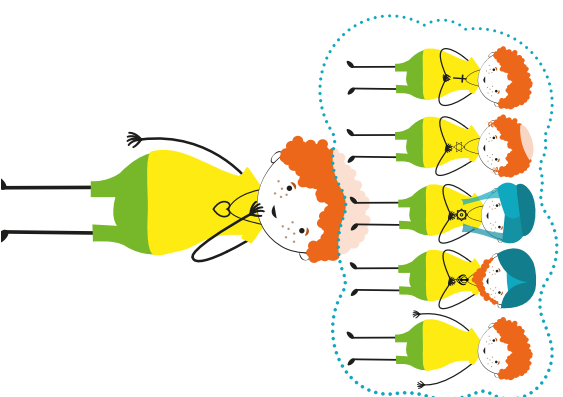
Children have the right to meet and to join groups and organisations with other children as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.



Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 14

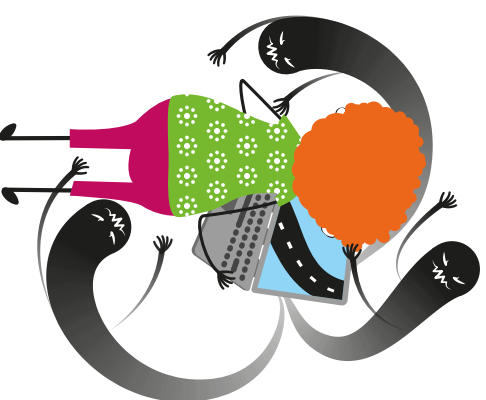
Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion as long as they do not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide the children on these matters.



Privacy, honour and reputation

Article 16

Children have a right to privacy. No-one should harm their good name, enter their house, open letters, emails personal messages or bother children or their family without a good reason.



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Access to information and media

Article 17

Children have the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, including books, newspapers and magazines, television, radio and the Internet. Information should be beneficial and under-standable to the children.



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Alternative care

Article 20

If parents and family cannot care properly for their children, then children must be looked after by people who respect their religion, traditions and language.



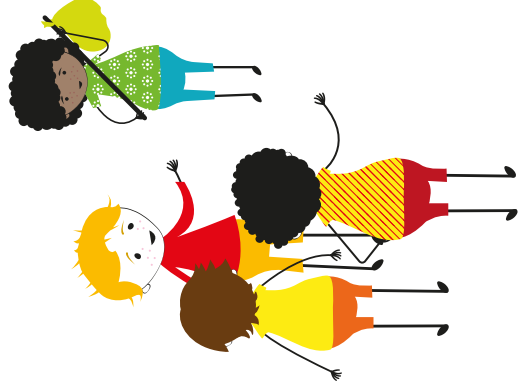
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Protection of all forms of violence, abuse and neglect

Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protected from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.



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Children with disabilities

Article 23

Children with any kind of disability should have special care, support and education so that they can lead a full and independent life and participate in the community to the best of their ability.



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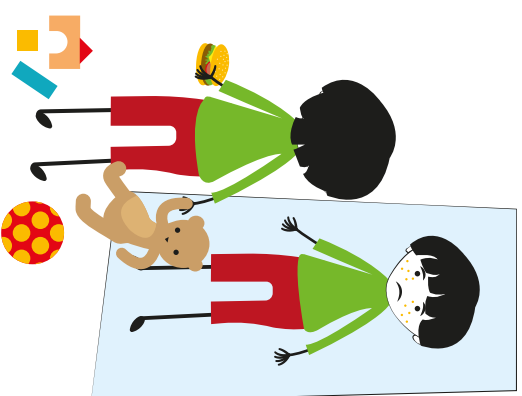


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Adequate standard of living

Article 27

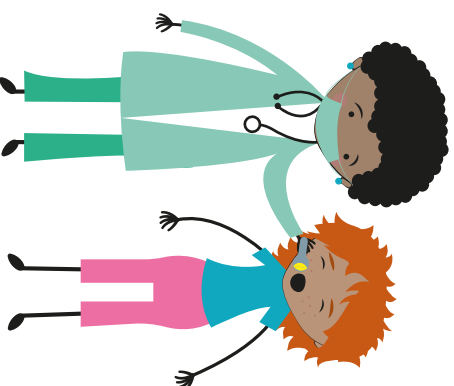
Children should live in good conditions that help them develop physically, mentally, spiritually, morally and socially. Governments should help families who cannot afford to provide this.



Health care and health services

Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health-care (e.g. medicine, hospitals, health professionals). They also have the right to clean water, nutritious food, a clean environment and health education so that they can stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.



Right to education

Article 28

Children have a right to an education that fosters the development of the personality and talents, and respects human rights and the cultural and national values. Primary education should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity.

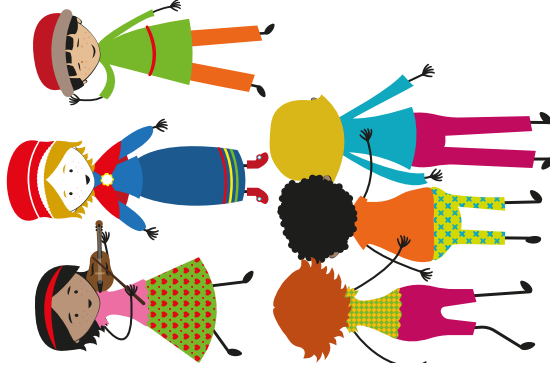


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Children of minorities and native origins

Article 30

Children have a right to learn and use the traditions, religion and language of their family, whether or not these are shared by most people in their country.



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Child labour

Article 32

The governments should protect children from work that is dangerous to their health or development, that interferes with their education or that might lead people to take advantage of children.

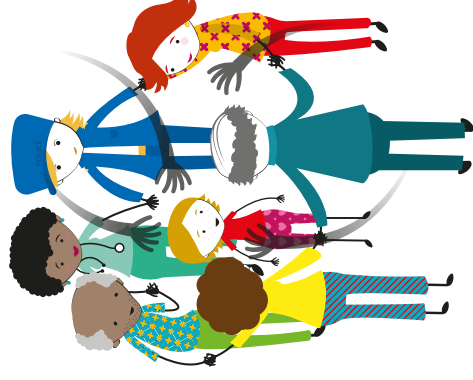


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Protection from sexual abuse, trafficking, sale and abduction

Articles 34 and 35

Governments must protect children from sexual abuse. They must make sure that children are not kidnapped, sold or taken to other countries to be exploited.

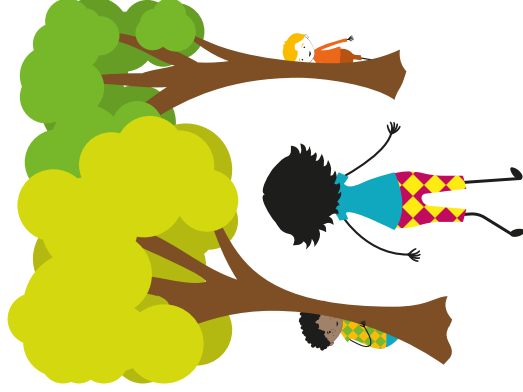


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Leisure, play and culture

Article 31

Children have a right to relax and play and to join in a wide range of recreational and cultural activities.



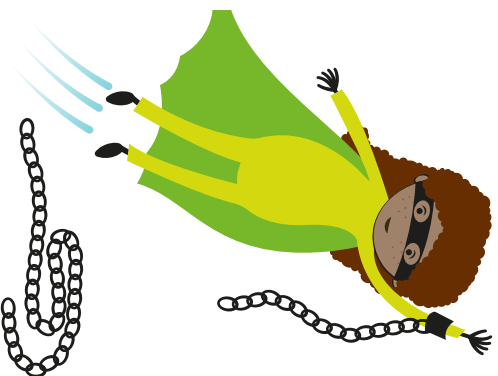
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Protection from torture, degrading treatment and loss of liberty

Article 37

No one is allowed to punish children in a cruel or harmful way. If children break the law, they should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to stay in contact with their family.



Protection of children affected by armed conflicts

Article 38

States must ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict. Children under fifteen (under eighteen in most European countries) should not be allowed to join the army or take any direct part in warfare. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

