



What is the UNCRC?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, is the basis of all of UNICEF's work. It is the most comprehensive statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history.

What makes the UNCRC so special?

The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Every child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status.

The Convention must be seen as a whole: all the rights are linked and no right is more important than another. The right to relax and play (Article 31) and the right to freedom of expression (Article 13) have equal importance as the right to be safe from violence (Article 19) and the right to education (Article 28).

The UNCRC is also the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world – it has even been accepted by non-state entities, such as the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a rebel movement in South Sudan. All UN member states except for the United States have ratified the Convention. The Convention came into force in the UK in 1992.