



Valuing Children  
— INITIATIVE —

## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 1:

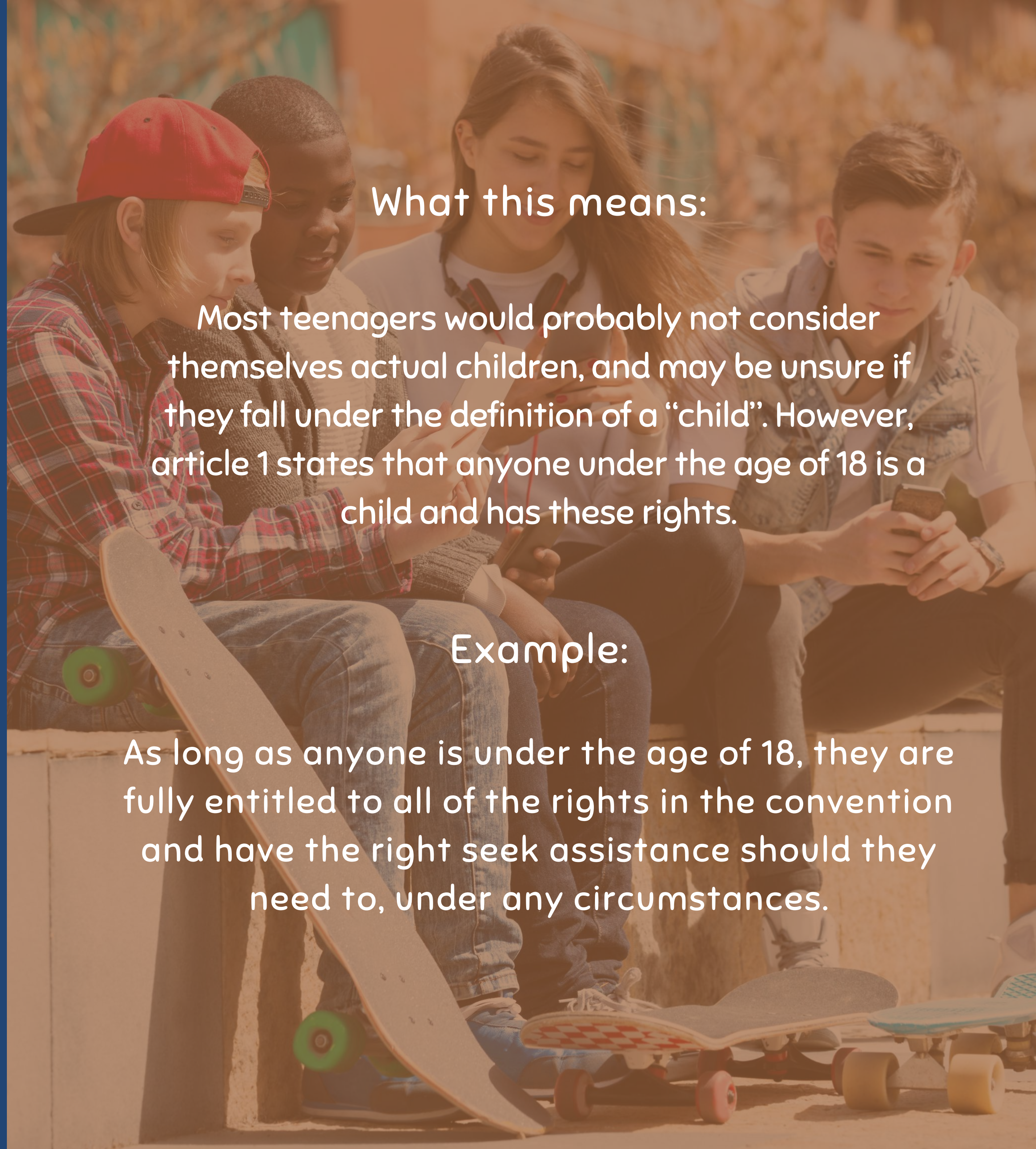
Everyone  
under 18 has these rights

### What this means:

Most teenagers would probably not consider themselves actual children, and may be unsure if they fall under the definition of a “child”. However, article 1 states that anyone under the age of 18 is a child and has these rights.

### Example:

As long as anyone is under the age of 18, they are fully entitled to all of the rights in the convention and have the right seek assistance should they need to, under any circumstances.







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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 2:

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

### What this means:

Under no circumstances related to a child's background or upbringing, within or outside of a child's control should they be treated unfairly or discriminated against.

### In other words:

Two children of different race, religion and gender, coming from different countries and from different socio-economic backgrounds should be equally as entitled to all the rights in the convention.







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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 3:

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

#### What this means:

When decisions are made on behalf of a child or that impact a child, it is important to consider the child's opinion, what is the best choice and how it would affect the child. Those in positions of power such as the Government should have children at the forefront of their decision making and consult with children before making decisions that will affect them.

#### In other words:

When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children. Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed. Governments should make sure that people and places responsible for looking after children are doing a good job.





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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 4:

Governments should make  
these rights available to  
children

### What this means:

Governments must undertake all legislative and administrative measures to implement the rights recognised in the present convention.

### Example:

Governments must do all they can to make sure that every child in their countries can enjoy all the rights in this Convention.







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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 5:

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to guide their children to use their rights properly.

### What this means:

Governments should let families and communities guide their children so that, they learn how to best use their rights in future.

### Example:

Adults such as parents can teach children their rights by making them known to the child, guiding them and identifying various situations where they have the right to exercise them.







# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLE 6:

Every child has the right to be alive

What this means:

Governments must make sure that children survive and develop in the best possible way.

Example:

Governments should ensure children live with a good quality of life by providing them with the necessary help and resources as needed, be it food, housing or education.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 7:

Children have the right to a legally registered name and nationality and as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.

What this means:

Children have the right to a nationality and name officially recognised by the government.

In other words:

A child should be registered when they are born, given an official name and nationality, and cared for by their parents where possible.





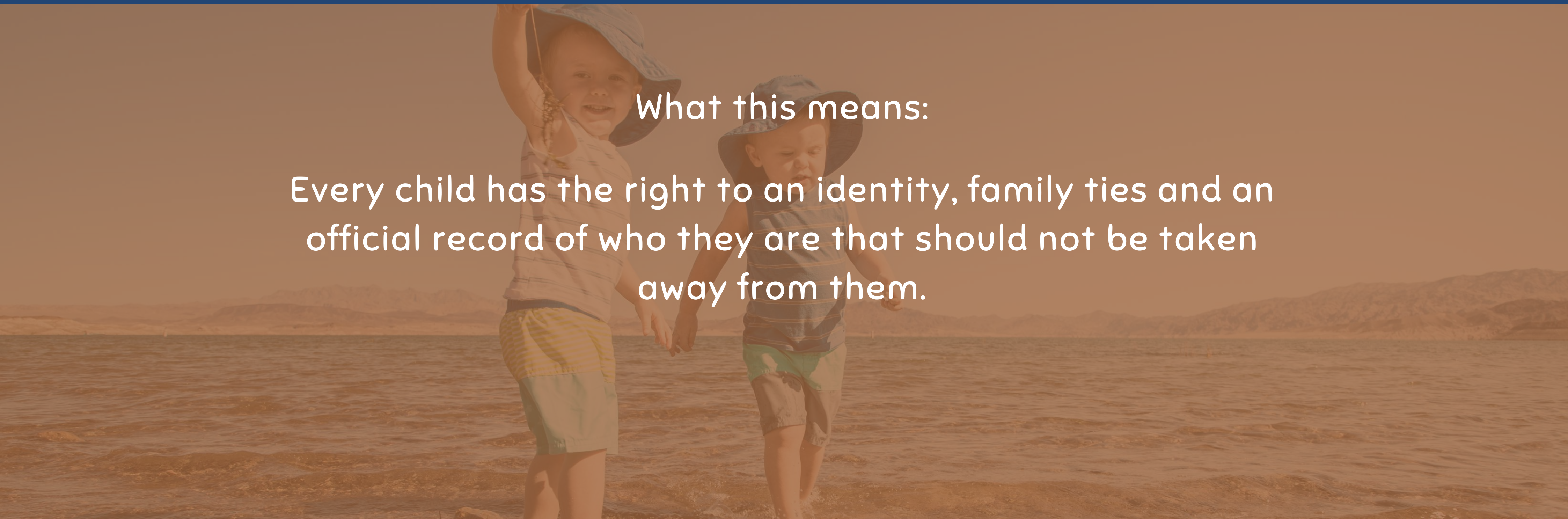
## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 8:

Governments should respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference.

What this means:

Every child has the right to an identity, family ties and an official record of who they are that should not be taken away from them.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 9:

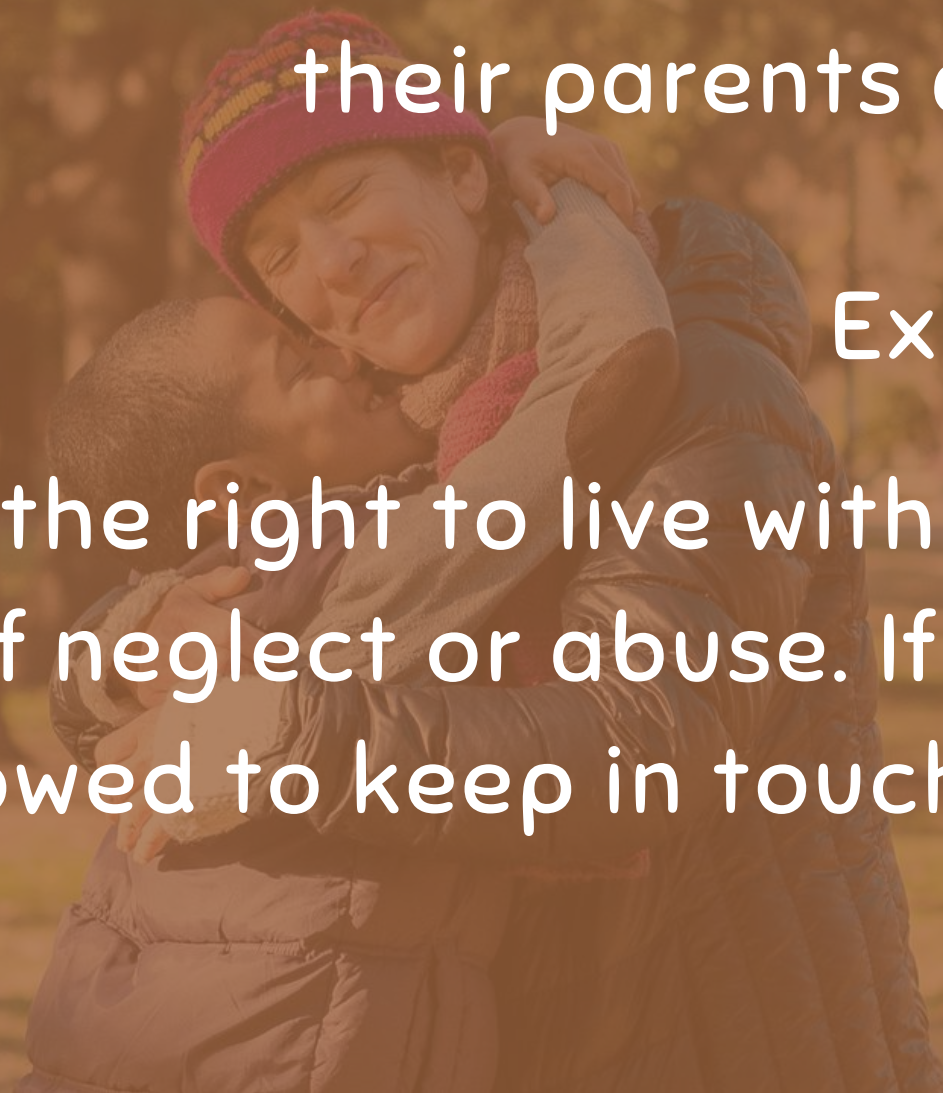
Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good. They also have the right to be in contact with both parents.

What this means:

Unless it is bad for the child, children have the right to live with their parents and a caring family.

Example:

Children have the right to live with their parent(s) unless it is bad for them such as cases of neglect or abuse. If a child's parents are separated, the child should be allowed to keep in touch with both parents as long as it is safe.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 10:

If a child lives in a different country than their parents, governments must let the child and parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.

What this means:

Children have the right to live in the same country as their parents.

Example:

If a child is born in Country X but his parents live in Country Y, he has every right to move to Country Y to live with his parents.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 11:

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

What this means:

Children have the right to be protected from kidnapping.

Example:

If children are being trafficked out of the country into another, governments have to step in to stop and prevent this and to keep them safe. A parent can also not hold a child abroad when the the other parent does not agree.





# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLE 12:

### Respect for children's views

What this means:

Children have the right to give their opinions and to be taken seriously by adults.

Example:

If a child has an opinion on his preferred style of learning, adults such as his teachers or parents should take this feedback into account.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 13:

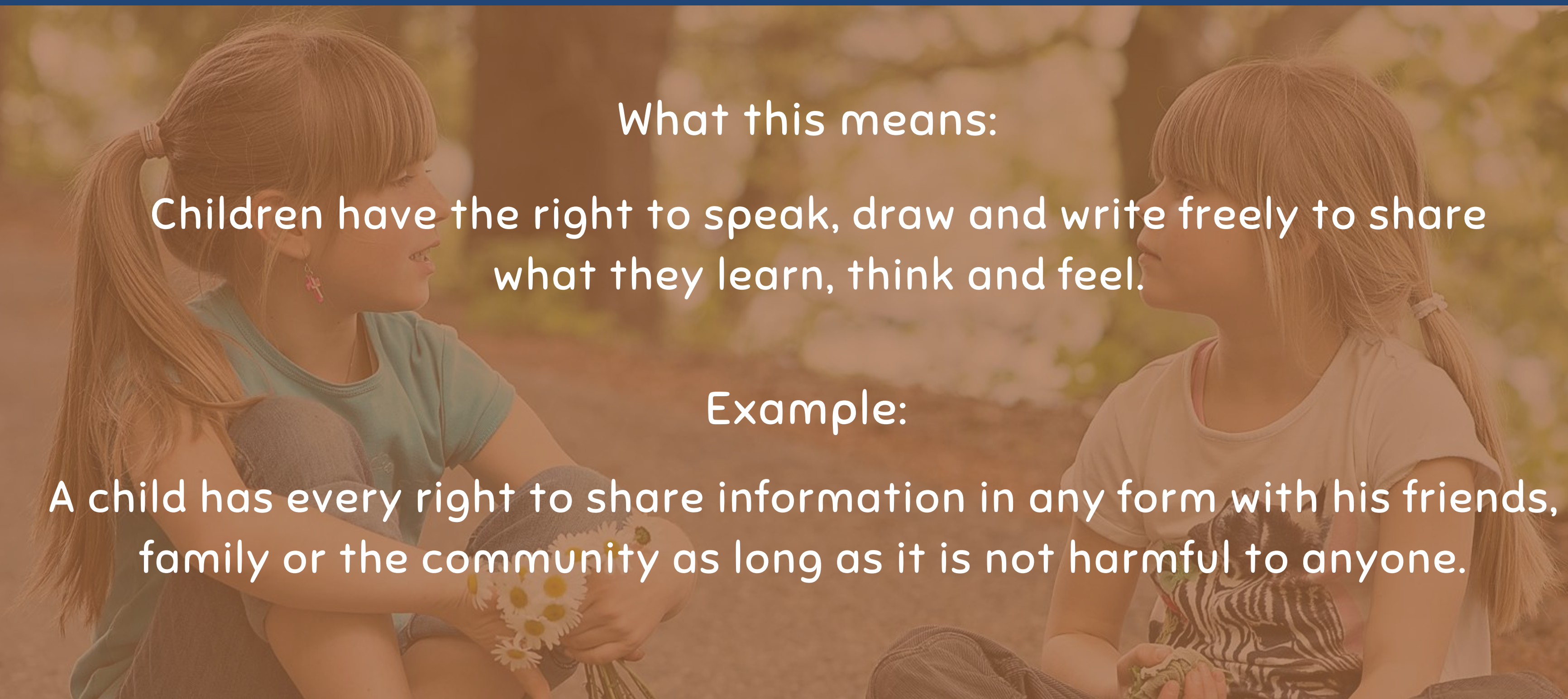
Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

What this means:

Children have the right to speak, draw and write freely to share what they learn, think and feel.

Example:

A child has every right to share information in any form with his friends, family or the community as long as it is not harmful to anyone.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 14:

Children have the right to freedom of thought and religion.

What this means:

Children can choose their own religion and beliefs, and parents can help to show what is right or wrong and what is best for the child.

Example:

Parents can guide their child in the right direction so that they learn to share their beliefs in an appropriate manner when they grow up.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 15:

Children have the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations.

What this means:

As long as it is not harmful or restrictive to others, children can set up or join groups.

Example:

If Tom, a child, wants to meet his friends or set up a group, he has every right to do so.





# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLE 16:

Every child has the right to privacy

### What this means:

Laws have to protect a child's privacy, family, communications and even reputation from being attacked.

### Example:

From daily activities such as choosing to get dressed alone, to deciding not to reveal information on their phone, every child has the right to basic privacy and can seek help from laws put in place to protect them, should they at any point in their daily lives feel their privacy has been compromised.





# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLE 17:

Every child has the right to access information

What this means:

Children have the right to get information from the internet, books, television or any form of media.

Example:

If a child wants to surf the internet to find out more about any given subject, they have every right to do so. Adults should do their part to ensure the information is not harmful.





# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLE 18:

Every child has the right to be raised by their parents

### What this means:

Parents are the main people responsible for bringing up a child. When the child does not have any parents, another adult will have this responsibility and they are called a “guardian”. Parents and guardians should always consider what is best for that child. Governments should help them. Where a child has both parents, both of them should be responsible for bringing up the child.

### In other words:

If a child has both parents, it is both their equal responsibility to bring up the child. Governments should help parents by providing services such as youth groups, childcare, schools etc.





# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLE 19:

Children have the right to be protected from violence.

### What this means:

Governments have to ensure that children are protected from violence, abuse and neglect by anyone who looks after them. Legislative, administrative, social and educational measures need to be in place to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents, guardians or anyone who has the care of a child.

### In other words:

A child who is being mistreated or hurt, whether mentally or physically has the right to seek and receive help.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 20:

Children without families have the right to receive appropriate care.

What this means:

Children have the right to be properly looked after by people who respect their culture, religion and beliefs.

In other words:

If a child is unable to live with their parents, they are fully entitled to receive proper care by people who fully respect all parts of their background.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 21:

Adopted or foster children have the right to protection and care.

What this means:

Adopted and foster children deserve to have what is best for their wellbeing to be done.

Example:

If an adopted child cannot be properly taken care of in their own country, they may be adopted into a family elsewhere in a different country – if this is best for their wellbeing.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 22:

Refugee children that have been forced to leave their home to live in another country have the right to special protection.

#### What this means:

Refugee children have the right to special protection and help, including all the other rights in the convention.

#### In other words:

Refugee children who move away from their home country should receive help in their new country and have the same rights as children born in it.





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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 23:

Children with disabilities have the right to special education that facilitates self-reliance and active participation in the community.

### What this means:

Governments should remove all obstacles for children with disabilities to help them become independent, participate actively in the community and live a full life.

### Example:

A child with disabilities should have access to special education and care to assist them in participating actively in the community, so that they can enjoy the best possible life in society. This is in addition to all other rights in the convention.





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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 24:

Children have the right to  
the highest attainable  
standard of health care,  
clean water, healthy food  
and a clean and safe  
environment to live.

#### What this means:

Children have the right to facilities and resources  
to help them stay in good health. All adults and  
children should have information about how to  
stay safe and healthy.

#### Example:

This includes having access to safe drinking  
water, nutritious food, a clean environment,  
access to information that will help them stay  
well, and to the best health care possible.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 25:

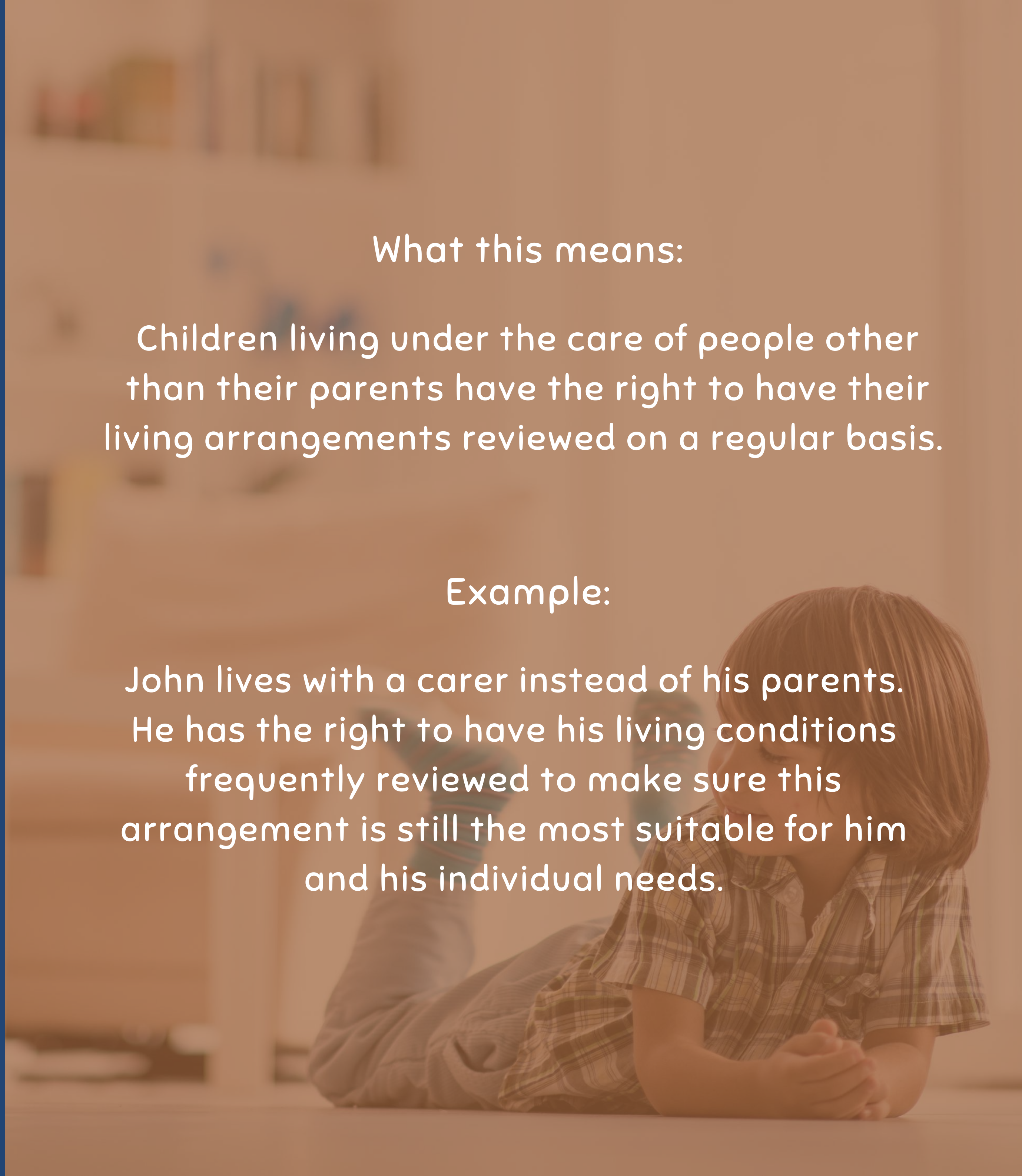
Every child placed by the authorities for the purpose of care has the right to have their situation reviewed regularly.

### What this means:

Children living under the care of people other than their parents have the right to have their living arrangements reviewed on a regular basis.

### Example:

John lives with a carer instead of his parents. He has the right to have his living conditions frequently reviewed to make sure this arrangement is still the most suitable for him and his individual needs.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 26:

Children from poor families have the right to receive help from the government.

#### What this means:

Governments should provide financial support and other resources to help children from poor families and assist with their living and educational costs, ensuring the child's wellbeing.

#### Example:

If Sarah's family does not have the financial abilities to provide her with the necessary resources for school, the Government should provide money and/or other support to ensure Sarah is able to complete her education.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 27:

Children have the right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

#### What this means:

Children have the right to an adequate standard of living; parents have the primary responsibility to provide this, and the government has a duty to assist parents, where necessary, in fulfilling this right.

#### Example:

Sam's parents have both been let go from their jobs and are struggling to afford necessities. The government should have support in place to ensure Sam still has access to good food, clothing and a safe place to live with his family.





# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLE 28:

All children have the right to an education, on the basis of equal opportunity.

What this means:

Primary education should be free, while secondary and higher education should be encourage and available to every child.

In other words:

Regardless of a child's background, they should have access to a good quality education. They should be encouraged to attend school to the highest level possible.





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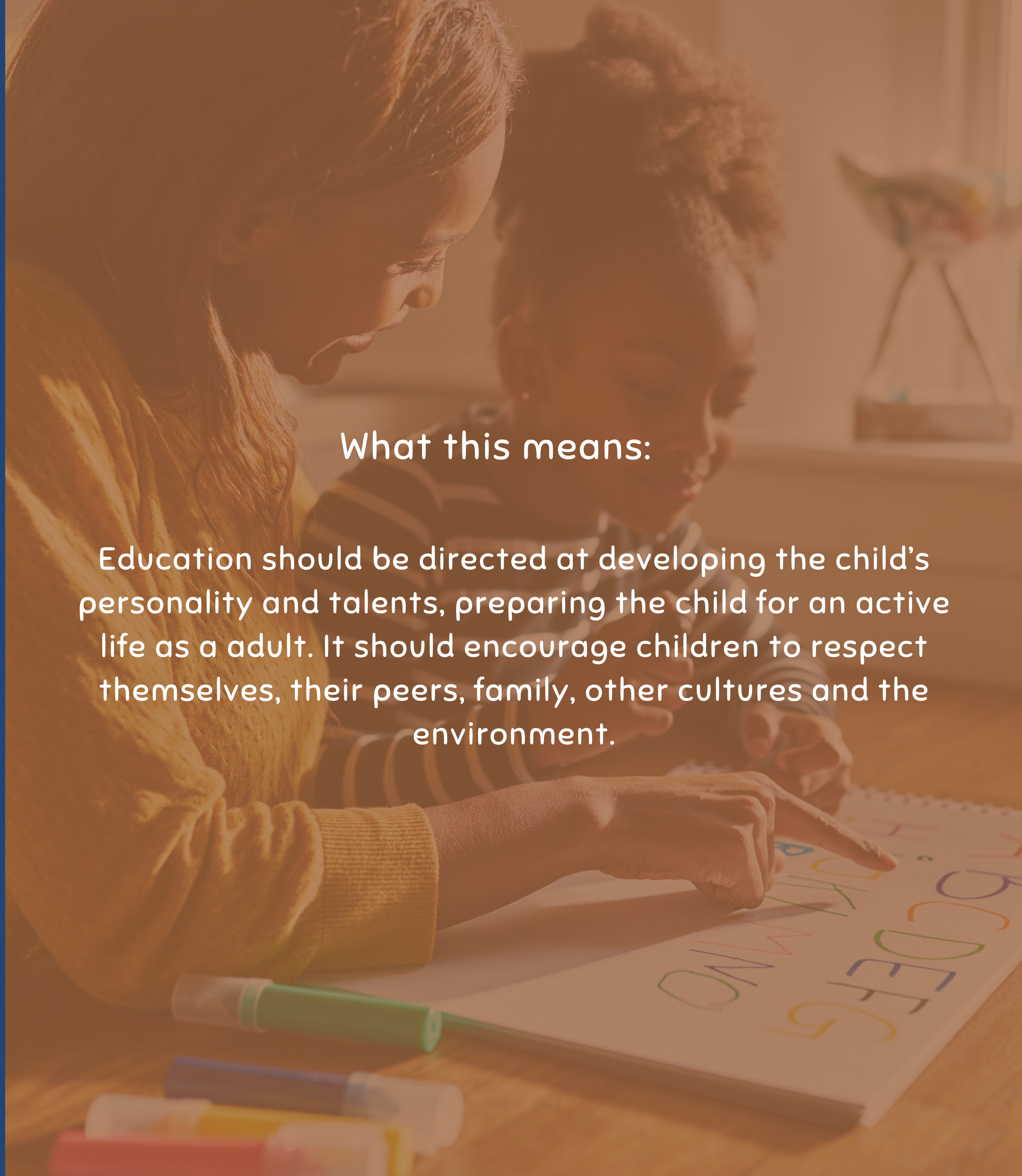
## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 29:

Education should aim to  
develop a child's  
personality, talents, mental  
and physical abilities to  
their fullest potential.

What this means:

Education should be directed at developing the child's personality and talents, preparing the child for an active life as a adult. It should encourage children to respect themselves, their peers, family, other cultures and the environment.







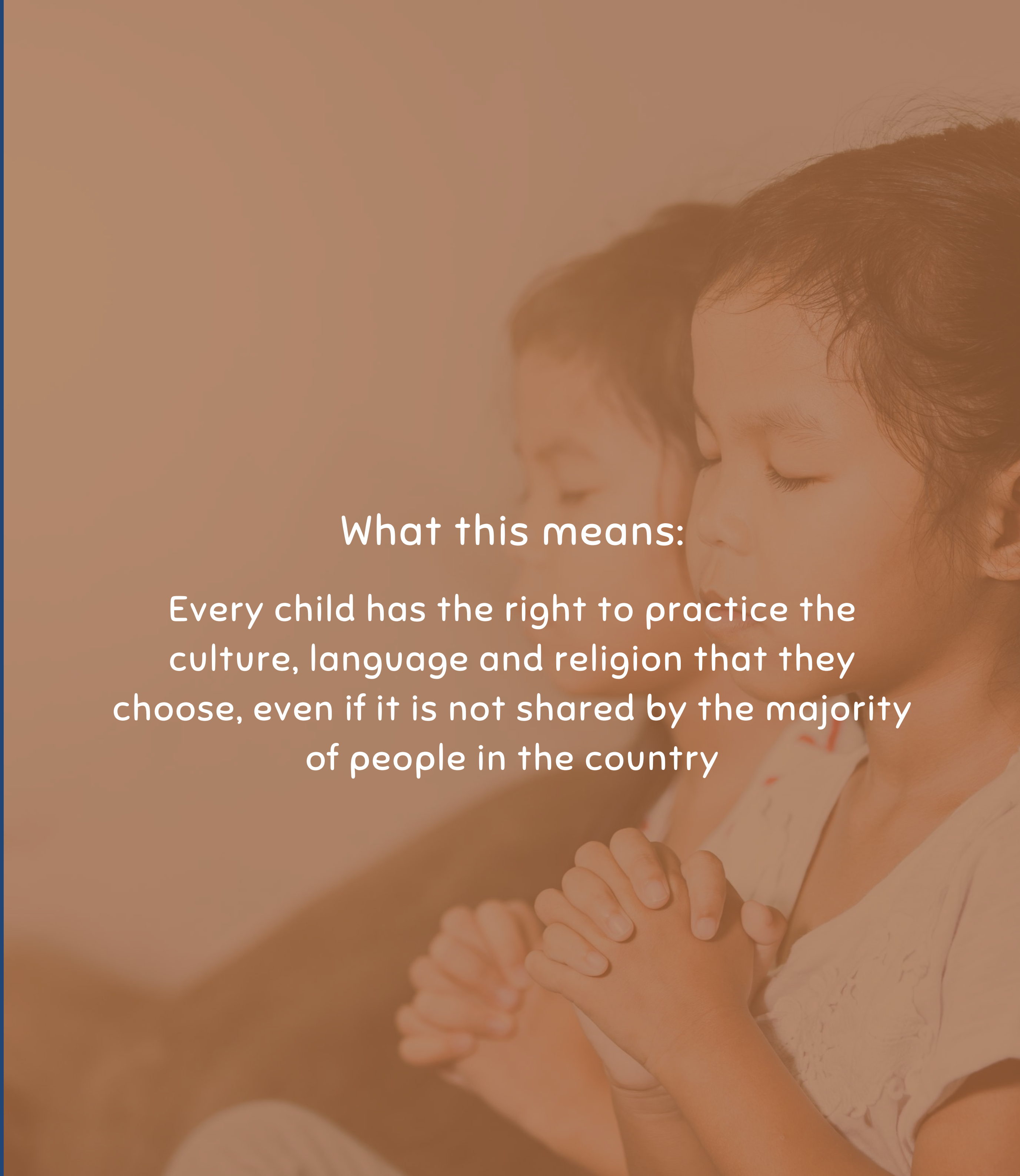
## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 30:

A child belonging to ethnic, religious minorities or persons of indigenous origin must not be denied the right to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion.

### What this means:

Every child has the right to practice the culture, language and religion that they choose, even if it is not shared by the majority of people in the country







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 31:

Children have the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of leisure activities.

#### What this means:

Children have the right to rest, play and freely take part in age-appropriate cultural, recreational and leisurely activities.







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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 32:

Children have the right to be protected from work that is dangerous or that might harm their health or education.

What this means:

Governments must provide a minimum age for employment and appropriate regulations for hours and conditions of employment.

Example:

If a child works, they have the right to carry out tasks in a safe environment for a fixed number of hours, and to be paid fairly.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 33:

Children have the right to be protected from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

What this means:

Governments must protect children from consuming, carrying or selling harmful drugs.

In other words:

Under no circumstances should children be involved with illegal drugs.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 34:

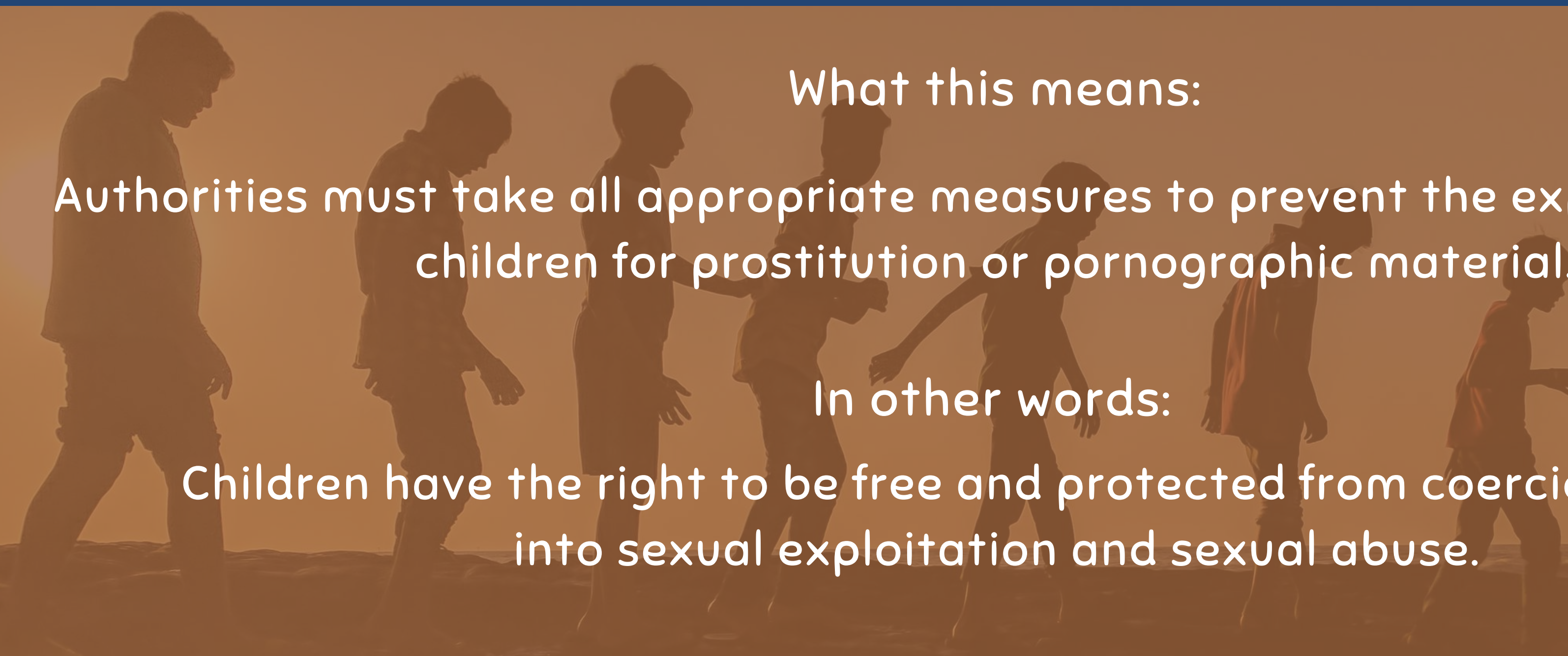
Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

What this means:

Authorities must take all appropriate measures to prevent the exploitative use of children for prostitution or pornographic material.

In other words:

Children have the right to be free and protected from coercion or force into sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 35:

Governments should ensure that children are not abducted or sold.

What this means:

All appropriate measures must be taken to ensure children are not kidnapped, sold, or taken to other countries or places to be exploited.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 36:

Children have the right to be protected from all other kinds of exploitation.

What this means:

Measures have to be put in place to protect children from any form of being taken advantage of, or any activities that could harm their development or welfare.

In other words:

Children have the right to seek help and support if they are in any situation that harms their wellbeing.





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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 37:

Children must not be  
punished in a cruel or  
harmful manner

What this means:

No child is to be subjected to torture and other degrading and inhumane acts of cruelty. They must not be deprived of being treated with respect and humanity.

In other words:

If a child feels that they have been put into a distressing situation as part of a punishment, they have every right to seek help from authorities.





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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 38:

All children have the  
right to protection and  
freedom from war

What this means:

Governments must take measures to ensure that children under the age of fifteen do not take direct part in hostilities or be recruited into armed forces.

In other words:

In the event of war, governments must not only ensure that children are not involved in armed conflict, but are also protected.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 39:

Children have the right to  
psychological recovery  
and social reintegration  
from any forms of abuse

### What this means:

Children who have been previously neglected or hurt from inhumane or degrading treatment and punishment have the right to receive treatment to restore self-respect and health.







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## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 40:

Children accused of breaking  
the law have the right to  
receive legal help and fair  
treatment.

What this means:

Every child accused of breaking the law must  
be treated with a sense of dignity and worth.  
Prison sentences should only be given for  
serious offences.

In other words:

A child's value and rights are not diminished  
despite any offences. Focus should be  
placed on reintegrating the child into a  
constructive role in society.





## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 41:

Nothing in the present Convention should affect any provisions more conducive to the realisation of the rights of a child.

What this means:

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, those laws should override the Convention.







## UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLE 42:

All rights belonging to children in the convention should be made known to all parents and children.

What this means:

All parents and children have the right to be aware of the rights in the convention and to have access to them.

In other words:

Specific details of a child's rights can be accessed on UNICEF's page, and adults should do their part to educate themselves and children on these rights.





# UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## ARTICLES 43–54:

### How the Convention works

#### What this means:

These articles explain how governments, the United Nations – including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF – and other organisations work to make sure all children enjoy all their rights.

See all articles – <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>