

- the right to freedom of expression;
- the right to freedom of thought
- the right to freedom of conscience and religion;
- the right to freedom of association;
- the right of children to have their opinions considered in all issues concerning them;
- the right to have access to appropriate information
- the right to privacy.
- The rights of children with special needs, such as:
refugee children; handicapped children;
children of minorities or indigenous people;
children without families including conditions to govern adoption.



Universal Children's Day (20 November)

The declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted in 20 November 1959 and this day was announced as 20 November Universal Children's Day by United Nations. United Nations emphasized that this day should be celebrated by studies concerning the children and primarily the studies that can amend the lives of the children.



23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day

In the honour of Turkey Grand National Assembly's foundation, 23 April 1920 is a day dedicated to the Children of Turkey and the World by Atatürk. By the promulgation of the year 1979 "The Year of Children" by UNESCO, the day extended from a national to an international status. Since then, every year during the week of the day of April 23, TRT arranges a traditional festival to which children between the ages 8-12 are being invited from the entire world.



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



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HISTORY OF CHILDREN RIGHTS

The improvements about children rights have emerged at the beginning of 1800s with the implications in orphanages. From the beginning of the 20th century the idea that the rights of men and children should be considered distinctly has spread.

Declaration of the Rights of the Child which was prepared with this idea was accepted in 1924 by the League of Nations, then in the years 1959 and 1989 it was renewed twice. League of Nations with its constant studies has been trying to set basic principles and standard rules for the rights of children.

The origin of Declaration of the Rights of the Child by League of Nations goes back to the year 1923 when the founder of Save the Children Union, Eglantyne Jebb came up with five basic principles of rights of children. Then these were accepted by League of Nations in 1924 and Treaty of Geneva. After the II World War Nations League of Nations focused on human rights of children were slightly, considered inadequate and in the year 1959 United Nations declared another declaration specifically on children's rights. This declaration of ten basic elements was drawing a general framework of the rights of the children. After 30 years then that, in the year 1989 United Nations has renewed the previous declaration and expanded it to 54 articles and the new one was proclaimed as Convention on the Rights of the Child. What is more with the enshement of the member countries the convention became an international code.



BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

According to the convention;

- The decisions concerning the child, the laws and implications by the government, has to be made definitely considering the benefits and interests of the child.
- All children with no regard to their or their family's religion, language, ethnicity, political ideas or other discriminations, have these rights equally.
- Children have right to declare their ideas and opinions freely about themselves.

Below are the main articles referring to the principles above;
Definition of the Child (Article 1): A child means every human being below the age of 18 years

Equality (Article 2): Every child, without any exception whatsoever, shall be entitled to these rights, without distinction or discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, whether of himself or of his family.

Guarding the Child's Benefit (Article 3): In all actions concerning the children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

Right to Life (Article 6): Every child has the inherent right to life and it is the government's duty to ensure the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

Valuing the Ideas and Thoughts of the Child (Article 12):

The child who is capable of forming his or her own views has the right to express those views freely and in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child should be given weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. Whereas this does not necessarily mean that every demand of the child should be fulfilled by the parents.



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The CRC begins by defining a child as anyone under the age of eighteen. The rights outlined in the CRC apply to all children, everywhere. In all issues concerning children the best interests of the child will prevail. Signatory States are responsible for ensuring



that necessary measures are taken to ensure the full rights of the child are respected. The main points covered are:

- the role and responsibilities of parents and where these are neglected the role of the State itself;
- the right to have and to keep a name and nationality;
- the right to survival and development;
- the right to health and health services;
- the right to education;
- the right to social security;
- the right to a decent standard of living;
- the right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities;
- the right to be protected from abuse and neglect;
- the right to be protected from drug abuse;
- the right to be protected from sexual exploitation;
- the right to be protected from economic exploitation;
- the right to be protected from sale, trafficking and abduction;
- the right to be protected from all other forms of exploitation;
- the right to be protected from torture and deprivation of liberty;
- the right to be protected from armed conflict both directly and indirectly;