



Our World

Week Beginning: Monday 20 January 2020



This Week in Our World...

This week the focus of '**Our World**' is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 37. This is the Article of the month for January, chosen by the Respecting Rights Committee.

In Child Friendly Language



"Rights" are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

Article 1 (definition of a child)
A child is anyone under the age of 18, unless the law of the country provides for a younger age.

Article 2 (non-discrimination)
Every child has the same rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what their race, colour, religion, language, sex, or what they are or are not, what their abilities are, or what their family situation is.

Article 3 (best interests of the child)
In all decisions about a child, the child's best interests must come first.

Article 4 (implementation of Convention)
Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by using laws, policies, and programs that protect and promote their rights.

Article 5 (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities)
Parents or other adults who have care of a child should guide and direct the child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights. This must be done in a way that recognizes the child's increasing capacity to make their own choices.

Article 6 (life, survival and development)
Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Article 7 (birth registration, name, nationality, care)
Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents.

Article 8 (protection and preservation of identity)
Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect their rights, and preserve the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.

Article 9 (separation from parents)
Children should not be separated from their parents or other family members unless it is in their best interests. For example, if a parent is unable to care for a child, Children's Rights should be respected. Governments must help the child stay in contact with both parents, unless that would harm them.

Article 10 (family reunification)
Children who are separated from their parents or other family members in another country should be reunited with them as quickly as possible. If that is not possible, governments should provide for their care and education in their own country.

Article 11 (protection from child abduction)
Governments must take steps to prevent children from being taken away from their family or from their country without their parents' consent.

Article 12 (freedom of expression)
Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Article 13 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)
Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

Article 14 (freedom of association)
Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organizations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 15 (right to privacy)
Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.

Article 16 (access to information from the media)
Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from outside that could harm them.

Article 17 (parental responsibilities and state assistance)
Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

Article 18 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)
Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 19 (protection from child labour)
If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.

Article 20 (adoption)
Governments must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it protects children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country.

Article 21 (freedom of movement)
Every child has the right to move and to leave their country, as long as this does not conflict with their rights.

Article 22 (refugees and children)
Every child who is a refugee or who has been displaced from their home should have the same rights and special protection and assistance as other children.

Article 23 (children with disabilities)
Every child who has a disability should have the same rights and special protection and assistance as other children.

Article 24 (health and health services)
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 25 (review of treatment in care)
If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, and the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.

Article 26 (social security)
Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.

Article 27 (adequate standard of living)
Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 28 (right to education)
Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29 (goals of education)
Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups)
Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32 (child labour)
Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education. Governments must set a minimum age for children to work and ensure that work conditions are safe and appropriate.

Article 33 (drug abuse)
Governments must protect children from the harmful use of drugs and from being



UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



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Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect their rights, and preserve the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.

Children should not be separated from their parents or other family members unless it is in their best interests. For example, if a parent is unable to care for a child, Children's Rights should be respected. Governments must help the child stay in contact with both parents, unless that would harm them.

Children who are separated from their parents or other family members in another country should be reunited with them as quickly as possible. If that is not possible, governments should provide for their care and education in their own country.

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Can you find Article 37 on either/both posters in your classroom?

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OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS
There are three agreements, called Optional Protocols, that strengthen the Convention and add further safeguards for children. They are optional, so not all countries have agreed to them.

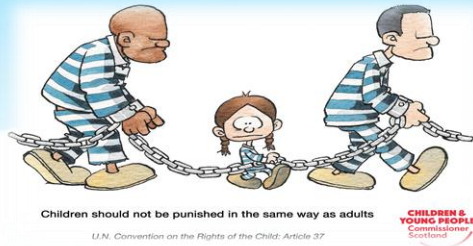


Article 37

What is it?

Article 37

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

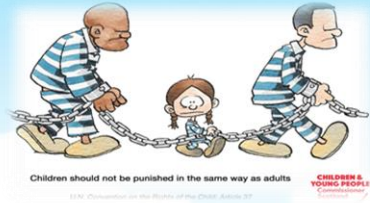


In School

Article 37 ensures that children are not punished in a cruel or harmful way. It also ensures that if children break the law, they have rights to be treated differently from how adults are treated.

In school, we have a Behaviour Policy that clearly states the expectations for the behaviour of children and the consequences if children do not stick to these expectations. This could be seen as a punishment and is therefore not cruel or harmful to any children.

In each classroom, there is a Reach for the Stars chart, where children's good behaviour is celebrated and if children do not behave appropriately they will potentially stay in for five minutes of playtime. This is in line with Article 37 because it is not cruel or harmful.



Discussion

In groups, discuss:

When/where Article 37 might be important as well as in school?

Why should children be treated differently than adults if they have broken the law?

Who should you talk to if you felt you were punished in a cruel or harmful way?



expectation

Expectation (noun)

To have the belief that something is likely to happen





Watch...



Clip 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_2nA49p3yw