

Let's learn about the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights!

The High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations is Volker Türk. This means that he is the head of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR).



Some facts about him:



He is from Austria



He studied international law



He speaks English, French, German and Spanish

About the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The First High Commissioner for Human Rights was appointed in 1993. Volker Türk is the 8th person to have this job. The High Commissioner of Human Rights is a bit like a leader for human rights in the world who works with a great team of professionals.

What is his job?

- He advises the Secretary-General of the UN on human rights and cooperation with governments.
- He is in charge of promoting human rights around the world and coordinate regional work by for example visiting country offices.
- He ensures the respect of human rights through education and awareness-raising.

How does he work with States?



He works with States by providing advice for them and by monitoring whether they respect human rights.

He supports the implementation of new standards and rules and tries to give a voice to those who cannot speak up.

By writing reports on situations of human rights he raises awareness globally about what is happening locally.

Early warnings are another means to raise awareness about potential human rights violations and even to prevent them.

This way he and his office are finding solutions together with partners.



How does he work with children?

- By listening to children in focus group discussions and consultations so children can inform his reports on how to improve children's rights on specific topics.
- By working with organizations that work directly with children.
- By informing children through child-friendly reports.
- By talking to children whenever and wherever he can!

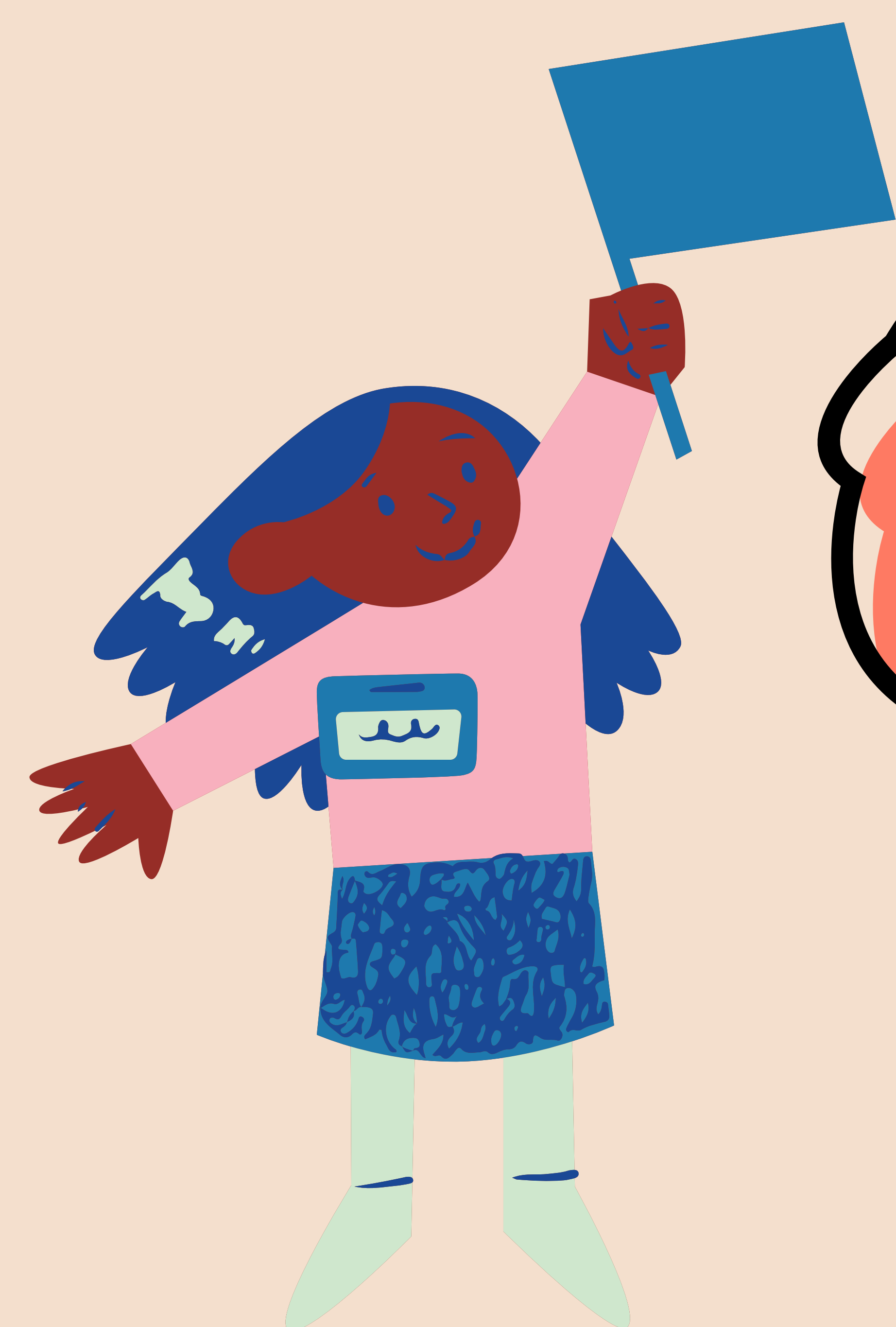
How can he advance human rights for everyone in the world including children?

By making all human rights happen for everyone in the world.

By being aware of and following the human rights issues of different groups such as children.

By working closely with right-holders including children.

By coordinating with States.



This document was prepared with help from the Children's Advisory Team of 2023 of Child Rights Connect and developed by Zsuzsanna Rutai and Imen Talhaoui.

The development of this document was funded in part by a grant from the United States Mission to International Organizations in Geneva. The views stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Mission to International Organizations in Geneva.

