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**Tell us your views:**

**Children and inclusive** **social protection**

**SUMMARY**

The United Nations is writing a report to governments about children’s rights and how to ensure they have the support they need to live a happy and healthy life with all the support they need to develop. And we want to hear from you!

* *What are some of the challenges and difficulties children in your community or country face in experiencing a safe, healthy, happy, and fair childhood?*
* *Can you tell us if there are some children in your community or country who experience more difficulties than others to live a safe, healthy, happy, and fair life?*
* *Can you tell us about any examples of extra help that children and their parents/caregivers get to support children to grow up in a safe, healthy, happy, and fair way?*
* *What should governments do to make sure that children have enough money and support to have a safe, healthy, happy, and fair childhood so that they can claim their rights?*

You can send your views, experiences, ideas, and suggestions on how to make it better in different ways. You can either use this google form or share your views via email. You are welcome to send pictures, films, or other communications if you wish to.

Email Helen at helen.griffiths@un.org and Agnes at gracia@childrightsconnect.org by 26th February 2023.

**Find out more below!**

**What is the United Nations (UN)?**

The United Nations (the “UN”) is an international organization created in 1945. It is made up of almost all countries in the world. The UN has many departments and offices, including the UN Human Rights Office (**OHCHR**), which works to protect and promote all human rights around the world.

**The UN Human Rights Office is writing a report and wants to hear from you!**

Every year the UN Human Rights Office writes a report for the UN Human Rights Council on children’s rights. This year’s report focuses on something called “inclusive social protection” – meaning that governments must support you and your parents/caregivers to make sure you have everything you need to grow up in a healthy, happy, safe, and fair environment.

The UN Human Rights Council is a space where representatives of governments meet to talk about and take action on human rights, to make sure that everyone has access to their rights.

This report talks about challenges children face in accessing their human rights, especially ensuring that they have enough support to grow up happy and healthy, with solutions to the barriers that they face. It aims to show the difficulties for children around the world and share good examples of how governments are putting these human rights into practice in a way that helps children.

**What are children’s rights?**

Human rights belong to each of us simply because we are people. Everyone in the world has human rights, including you. They are a list of things that make sure you live a happy and healthy life with all the support you need to develop. Governments around the world make promises known as human rights laws, so that all people in their countries have their human rights.

Children, that is everyone under 18, have some specific human rights that are just for them. These are written in a document called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children’s rights help to make sure all children everywhere are treated fairly and looked after properly, so that every child can grow up in a happy, healthy, fair, and safe environment and become active members of society. They ensure you can have such a life and that you can change things when they are not okay.

Children’s rights include: the right to be safe; go to school; be healthy; eat good food; and live in a proper house! You also have the right to be listened to and to give your opinion. All human rights are equally important and no one should take away your rights.

You can find out more about your rights [here](https://www.unicef.org/sop/convention-rights-child-child-friendly-version).

**What is inclusive social protection?**

**Social protection** means that your government must support you and your parents/caregivers to make sure you have everything you need to grow up in a healthy, happy, safe, and fair environment. This includes access to good food, warm and safe housing, and school, among other rights that you have as a child.

Article 26 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says that every child has the right **to social security** (also known as social protection). This means that children and their parents/caregivers should benefit from government support when parents or caregivers are unable to provide their children with a good enough standard of living.

Some of the reasons why government support might be needed include:

* poverty
* illness and health care costs
* disability
* abuse and neglect
* war and other emergencies

Without this extra help, some children are not able to fully enjoy their rights.

Social protection should be **inclusive**. This means that support from your government should be there to help every child when it is needed. This support should be easy to access and enough to ensure that every child has what they need to claim their rights.

**How can you help?**

We would like to hear what you think about inclusive social protection to help us develop this UN report. You can send us your ideas, experiences, views, and suggestions on how to make things better for children.

***Here are some key questions to help you in your thinking:***

* *Did you know that you have the right to social protection and security? Yes/No*
* *What are some of the challenges and difficulties children in your community or country face in experiencing a safe, healthy, happy, and fair childhood?*
	+ *Think about food, growing up at home, having enough money and time to go to school, public transport, and other things that children need.*
* *Can you tell us if there are some children in your community or country who experience more difficulties than others to live a safe, healthy, happy, and fair life?*
	+ *Think about whether some children face different or more difficulties than others.*
* *Can you tell us about any examples of extra help that children and their parents/caregivers get to support children to grow up in a safe, healthy, happy, and fair way?*
* *Tell us if you know about anything great that’s happening for children in your school, community, region or country so others can learn from it!*
* *What should governments do to make sure that children have enough money and support to have a safe, healthy, happy, and fair childhood so that they can claim their rights?*
* *Think about what you think will help make a difference for children and what governments should change! Be creative!*

**Any questions?**

You can contact Helen at the UN Human Rights Office: helen.griffiths@un.org; or Agnes at Child Rights Connect: gracia@childrightsconnect.org

**How to send the information?**

You can send your views, experiences, ideas, and suggestions on how to make it better in different ways. You can either use this google form or share your views via email. You are welcome to send pictures, films, or other communications if you wish to.

When contacting us please tell us about your age, gender, and country.

Email Helen at helen.griffiths@un.org and Agnes at gracia@childrightsconnect.org by 26th February 2023.

**Keeping Safe**

We will not share any information you send to us with anyone else, nor your personal or contact details. It will *only* be used for the report and the oral update on this topic.

We will reply to you and ask if you would like to receive the final version of the report and be interested in reviewing a child-friendly version once it is ready.

Please do not include your last name in any communications; only your first name is fine. This helps us to protect your right to privacy.

If you feel at risk in sending your inputs to OHCHR, then please contact Helen (OHCHR/UN Human Rights) or Agnes (Child Rights Connect) using the details above or share your concerns with any adult you trust.

* **Some links that might be helpful for you!**
* [The Convention on the Rights of the Child: The child-friendly version](https://www.unicef.org/sop/convention-rights-child-child-friendly-version)
* [UNICEF – information on social protection](https://www.unicef.org/social-policy/social-protection)

The UN Human Rights Office is undertaking this consultation with the support of Child Rights Connect.