

# LET'S TALK ABOUT THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND



# THE GENERAL COMMENT ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND EFFECTIVE REMEDIES (GC27)

## What is the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child?

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is a group of 18 experts in children's rights who come from all over the world. Their job is to make sure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is put into practice. This Convention sets out the rights that must be realized for children and adolescents to develop to their full potential and be protected from violence, abuse and harm. The Committee reviews how children's rights are being promoted and respected in each country that has joined the Convention and makes recommendations for them to do it better.



Children's rights are promises that governments have made to children and young people under 18 years old to help them enjoy a good life in all places where they live and stay safe from danger. The Convention on the Rights of the Child explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments. All the rights are connected, they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.

## What is the General Comment?

The Committee writes documents known as "general comments" to explain in more detail specific rights of children, and how governments and others, such as non-governmental organizations, academics and human rights defenders including children, can better understand and realize these rights. So far, the Committee wrote 26 General Comments and now they are working on a new one which is going to be about access to justice and effective remedies for those children whose rights have been violated.



## HOW IS THE GENERAL COMMENT DEVELOPED?

While working on a new General Comment, the Committee consults the public, which means they consult everyone including children and organisations working with them.



## What is the timeline for the General Comment No. 27 for child participation?

### 1st round of consultation:

First, the Committee prepares a document called “concept note” in which they explain the topic and the objective of the General Comment. Then, they share some questions about the topic on their website that anyone can reply to. Children are consulted based on these questions.



Between May and December 2024



Between spring and autumn 2025

### 2nd round of consultation:

Based on the submissions to the questions, the Committee prepares the first draft of the General Comment. Then, they share it on their website and everyone can comment on it.



### The General Comment is final!

After the two rounds of consultations, the Committee finishes working on the General Comment and share it with everyone on their website, along with translations in UN languages and child-friendly version.



January/May 2026

## WHAT DOES THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND EFFECTIVE REMEDIES MEAN?

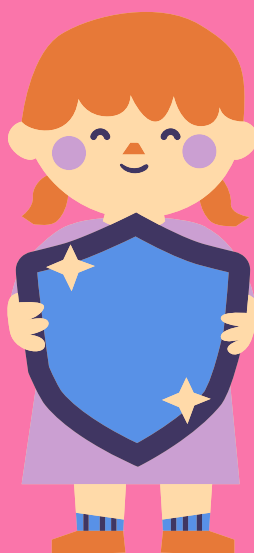
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child lists all the human rights that belong to children. Governments need to do two things to make sure children can practice their rights: give them support if they need it and not to disturb them when they are practicing their rights. If children don't get the support they need or the government disturbs them while they practicing their rights, we say that their rights are violated.



If this happens, children can go to 'bodies that deliver justice' and ask for the situation to be corrected, even if it is not the government who violated their rights but a private person or company. This opportunity is called access to justice.



At the same time, it is also important that the decision of the body delivering justice gives a proper relief for children: it agrees that the child's rights were violated, by whom, and what should happen next to correct the situation, repair the harm and make sure it will not happen again. A good decision which includes all these is called an effective remedy. This means that children have rights and they have the right to look for justice and effective remedies if their rights got violated.



## WHICH BODIES DELIVER JUSTICE AND REMEDIES AND HOW THEY DO IT?



If their rights are violated, children can go to ask for remedies, individually or in group, from bodies such as:

- courts in their country, including special courts like religious, tribal or indigenous courts,
- outside of the courts like mediation when a neutral person helps to find an agreement good for everyone,
- ombudspersons and national human rights institutions whose job is to protect children's rights,
- government offices and public services such as schools, hospitals, child care institutions, child justice institutions and detention facilities, if the violation of their rights happened there,
- companies, such as internet providers, social media and website owners, if their rights got violated online,
- international or regional courts or committees protecting human rights, in some cases.



Usually, these bodies work the following way:

1. Child or children make a report, complaint or contact them to tell them about what happened.
2. The body delivering justice considers the case of the child or children, which means they collect more information and carefully think over everything they heard. While doing so, they need to listen to children and provide support for them.
3. The body makes a decisions that is good for the child or children and make sure that the government and others take responsibility.

**IN THE 1ST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO HEAR THE REPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FROM CHILDREN:**

**01 What do children think about justice and effective remedies?**

- What does justice mean for you?
- What does effective remedy mean for you?

**02 What are the barriers for children to access justice and get effective remedy?**

- Think about any reason that might make it hard for children to find, access or speak to a body delivering justice when their rights have been violated.
- Are there group of children for whom it is even more difficult? If yes, who and why?

**03 What do children need to access justice and effective remedy if their rights got violated?**

- Think about the everything children may need to go to the bodies delivering justice and all the things they need to engage with them until the bodies deliver their decision (for example methods, information, support).
- You can also think about ideas for solutions to overcome the barriers you talked about before.
- How can adults help children? Think about adults around a child like the parents and teachers, but you can also think about civil society organisation or the government.

**04 What ways should the bodies delivering justice work with the cases of children?**

- Think about if children need adults to represent them, like their parents or lawyers and if so, how they should represent the opinion of the child.
- Think about how children should be heard and listened to by the bodies delivering justice while they are working on the case but also when they are making their final decision.
- Think about how the identity of the child needs to be protected and any other ways children can feel safe.
- Think about the role of adults who work at these bodies and the way they should work with children.
- How can the mechanisms of these bodies be child-friendly?

**05 How can adults make sure that when justice is delivered, it has a positive impact on the life of the child or children?**

- Think about the change that justice can bring to the life of a child whose rights had been violated.
- Think about also when and how this change should happen.

## THIS LEAFLET WAS PREPARED SO...

- children can learn about this opportunity and get in touch with the organisation which will facilitate the consultations,
- children can understand the objective and framework of the consultations before they agree to participate in the consultation,
- children can have it in their hand during the consultation and use it whenever and whatever part they need,
- adults who facilitate the consultations can use it to prepare for the consultations.



## HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF THIS?

- Most probably you are reading this leaflet because you heard about the consultation from an organisation in your country. You can ask all your questions from them!
- If you are not in contact with an organisation that is planning the consultations, please let us know and we will help to find one in your country.
- At the consultation, there will be several adults: one or more facilitators who will help you to talk through the questions and one or more documenters who will take notes. The notes will not include your name and nothing you said can be connected to you. It will be only used to fill out a form which will be used to prepare a report for the CRC Committee.
- After the Committee reads all the submission, they will prepare the draft of the General Comment and you will have the chance again to comment on it!



You can always send us a message if you have a question: [rutai@childrightsconnect.org](mailto:rutai@childrightsconnect.org)

