

SMALL READINGS BEFORE CHILD CONSULTATIONS ON THE GENERAL COMMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



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 helpful recommendations for them to do 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 no matter where they live and stay safe from danger. The Convention on the Rights of the Child explains who children are, all of their rights, and the responsibilities of governments. All of 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 has written 26 General Comments and they are now working on a new one which will cover access to justice and effective remedies for those children whose rights have been violated. This will be the General Comment No. 27!



How is the General Comment No. 27 going to be 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. In this process, there are dedicated consultations with children, based on resources developed with support from the Children’s Advisory Team of Child Rights Connect.



When can children participate in the drafting of the General Comment No. 27?

1st round of consultation:

First, the Committee prepares a document called a “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



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Between April and June 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, including children.



The General Comment is final!

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



January/May 2026