

SMALL READING BEFORE THE CHILD CONSULTATIONS

What are children's rights?

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.



How children are protected in wars?



According to the United Nations Children's Fund, over 473 million children – about one out of every six children in the world – live in areas where conflict or war is happening. **These children have the same rights under the Convention** as any other child living in a peaceful country!



They also have **the right to be protected in war** and not made to join the army or take part in the war other ways (article 38). Children **have the right to get help** if they have been hurt, neglected, treated badly or affected by war, so they can get back their health and dignity (article 39).

How children's rights are violated in wars?



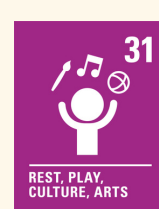
Children are not treated like children anymore and their best interest is not considered.



Children might get separated from their family or family members or lose them at the war.



Children are hurt, abused or treated badly, they get injured or lose their life because of the fighting. They might be taken to fight or support the army.



Children cannot go to school or cannot play outside, because it is not safe anymore or the schools and playgrounds were destroyed.



Children cannot have access to clean water or medicines, they don't have enough food, clothing. It can happen that they lose their home or they have to leave it because it is not safe anymore.