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Why bother?

At All?

Because the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does not give you that right!

The Convention on the Rights of the Child treaty spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere – without discrimination – have:

- The right to survival;
- To develop to the fullest;
- To protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation;
- To participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

(Article 1)

The Convention says that a 'child' is a person who is under 18 years of age. So, even though some of you might not think of yourselves as being 'children' any more, if you are under 18, this is your Convention. And the rights named in it are your rights too.

(Article 12)

You have the right to have a say and to have your opinions taken seriously by adults when decisions are being made that will affect you – for example, family decisions, decisions in school or about your local community.

(Article 13)

You have the right to find out about things and to pass on information. And you have a right to say what you think and to say it in the way you like – for example, by speaking, writing or doing art. You also have a responsibility to make sure that you do not harm or disrespect others by saying what you think.

(Article 17)

You have the right to get information from all sorts of places – the radio, newspapers, television, books, the internet, and so on. Adults should make sure that you get information you understand. The government must protect you from any information that might harm you.

(Article 42)

You have the right to know what your rights are. The government must make sure that children, young people and adults know what the Convention says.

