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Reading Article G1

Article #3: THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Each child has 54 rights. These are some of the main ones;

Children need special care and protection. Therefore, a child should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding so that his/her personality can develop fully.

Every child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to acquire a nationality, and as far as possible, to know his/her parents and to be cared for by them.

The child has a right to live with his/her parent unless this is deemed to be incompatible with the child's best interests. The child also has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.

A child has the right to express his/her opinion freely and have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities. A child can also have his/her own culture and practise his/her own religion and use his/her own language.

As far as education is concerned, the following is agreed to:

Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities as much as possible. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and promote self-respect for the child's parents, his/her own cultural identity, language and values and for the cultural background and values of others.

The Bill of Rights also condemns any form of child abuse by adults:

The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his/her health, education or development. The State shall set minimum wages for employment and regulate working conditions.

Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic drugs and from being involved in their production or distribution.

It is the state's obligation to make every effort to prevent the trafficking in, sale or abduction of children.

No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment are prohibited for offences committed by persons below 18 years.

No child below the age of 15 years shall be recruited into the armed forces.

A child has the right to become a successful adult who will play a vital role in his/her community, a grown-up who will care for and protect his/her own children one day.