



Rights of the Child:

The United Nations Convention

The four core principles of the Convention on the rights of the child are **non-discrimination**; devotion to the **best interests of the child**; the **right to life, survival and development**; and **respect for the views of the child**.

Every right spelled out in the Convention is part of human dignity and harmonious development of every child. In addition to setting out a *right to education* for every child, s.29 of the Convention declares “the education of the child *shall be directed to*:

- a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
- b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
- c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;
- d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;
- e) The development of respect for the natural environment.