



Apply Human Rights

Introduction to Litigators and Others

Children's Human Rights

Children's rights are the human rights that are particular to children's need for protection and care. Children are guaranteed some additional rights in international law because of this need for special protection and care. They must be able to depend on the adult world to look after them, to defend their rights and to help them develop and realize their potential.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* is seen as a basis for all international legal standards for children's rights today. There are several conventions and laws that address children's rights around the world.

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* sets out the rights that must be realized for children to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. It reflects a new vision of the child. Children are neither the property of their parents nor are they helpless objects of charity. They are human beings and are the subject of their own rights. The Convention offers a vision of the child as an individual *and* as a member of a family and community, with rights and responsibilities appropriate to his or her age and stage of development. By recognizing children's rights in this way, the Convention firmly sets the focus on the whole child.

The Convention and its acceptance by so many countries have heightened recognition of the fundamental human dignity of all children and the urgency of ensuring their well-being and development.

The most important international standards can be found under the **Regulations** category.

We have also covered the regional agreements on the rights of children and published them under each region; Africa, Americas, Asia, Middle East, Europe and Oceania.

Under the category **Case Law** we give reference to the most important databases from which one can access the cases on the violation of children rights. Case law incorporates courts' decisions from individual cases and encompasses courts' interpretations of statutes,

constitutional provisions, administrative regulations and, in some cases, law originating solely from the courts.

The closer examination of **National Precedents** gives clear picture of the application of law on children's rights by the international and national courts. In some systems precedent is not binding but is taken into account by the courts.

Under the category **Interpretation of Children's Rights by UN and others** you can find general comments issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and recommendations and comments from other international bodies.

Access to legal recourse against violations of children's rights is essential. The **Complaint Procedures** category contains an overview of complaint procedures under different human rights bodies.

The **Bibliography** category consists of the list of important publications on specific issues of children's rights.

In due course, a category of **experts within this area** will provide contact details for the legal experts on children's rights issues.

The **Contact persons/organisations category** provides a comprehensive collection of the largest children's rights organisations, both international and regional. Here you can quickly find support organisations in your region to which you can turn in the event of a violation.