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|  |  | United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child  To protect the human dignity and harmonious development of every child |
| History The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) aims to protect and promote the rights of all children throughout the world.  After 10 years of international work and negotiations, the United Nations approved the final text of the CRC. The United States contributed much to the effort, including submitting comments on nearly all the articles, proposing the original text for seven of the articles, three coming directly from the US Constitution as proposed by then President Ronald Reagan. human rights, including rights for children, are basic standards to which every person is entitled, to survive and develop in dignity. “…the children of today are facing a new set of challenges and global shifts that were [previously] unimaginable. Inequities are deepening…and more families are migrating than ever before. Childhood has changed and we need to change our approaches along with it.” --Henrietta H. Fore, UNICEF Executive Director  <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/open-letter-to-worlds-children?utm_campaign=crc30-letter&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=boost-unicefchief> for more information: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> |  | PURPOSE of the crc Four core principles of the CRC are:   1. Nondiscrimination 2. Devotion to the best interests of the child 3. Right to life, survival, and development 4. Respect for the views of the child   The CRC protects and promotes the rights of all children worldwide to:   * Participate in family, cultural, and social aspects of life * Right to survival, development, and protection against abuse, neglect and exploitation * Right to education, health care, juvenile justice * Rights for children with disabilities  current status All Member States of the United Nations (UN) have ratified the CRC **except the United States**.  In 1995, Madeleine Albright, then U.S. Ambassador to the UN, signed the Convention. President Bill Clinton and all U.S. presidents since then have failed to present the CRC to the U.S. Senate for ratification.  States within the U.S. have the option to ratify the CRC at the state level. What ratification would yield The CRC can serve as a guide for legislation, funding, program development, policies, practices, and community and agency action that assures the health and well-being of all children.  As a collective international voice, the CRC comes closest to defining societal norms in support of children that are universally applicable.  Opposition to U.S. ratification expresses concerns for parental rights.  RESPONSE:  The CRC spells out the important role of parents many times throughout the document.  Opposition to U.S. ratification argues that the UN is an “elitist institution” and, as such, should not be trusted to properly handle sensitive decisions regarding family issues.  RESPONSE:  The CRC builds on and parallels human rights documents preceeding it, human rights treaties that the U.S. has ratified. All people should have basic human rights, including and especially children.  Opposition to U.S. ratification have concerns about the juvenile justice system and life imprisonment laws currenly in place.  RESPONSE:  Multiple U.S. Supreme Court decisions since 2005 have made decisions that reverse extreme laws regarding sentencing children, indicating that such laws are unconstitutional and must be changed. |