

Rights of the Child

Because children around the world have the same needs (the need for food, shelter, love, medical care, a clean environment, education and recreation), they also have the same rights. If you're interested in international issues, you'll be interested in the Rights of the Child.

*The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international agreement that lists all of the rights that every child (18 years old and under) is entitled to, no matter where children live, who their parents are, or what religion they practise. The Convention became part of international law when it was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. It was signed by Canada in 1991. Countries that agree to follow the Convention make laws to protect and encourage children's development. They have to report to a committee made up of experts from around world and show that they're doing all they promised to do when they agreed to be part of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.*

This Convention is the first legal code on children's rights in history. It has been adopted

by more countries than any other international human rights treaty. More than 190 countries have signed or ratified it. Signing the Convention shows that the government of a country thinks it's a good idea. Ratifying the Convention is like an extra step because that means that the Convention becomes law in that country.

Why is it important to understand your rights?

The Convention is an amazing document because people all over the world agree that certain things are important, not only for survival, but are necessary so that people can fully participate in their communities. Can you name some of the rights that you are using simply by participating in your global education club? See the next page for a list of Some examples would be the right to be heard and the right to peaceful assembly. By making people more aware of global and environmental issues, your club is helping to promote the rights of the world's children. This is a responsibility that we all share.

