

The Convention and media

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations in November 1989, spells out the basic human rights to which children everywhere are entitled. The following sections of the Convention are of particular interest to anyone concerned about the relationship between children, young people and the media. The media's role in protecting and promoting children's rights.

Children's right to participate in the media

Article 12 refers to your right to express your own opinions and to have them taken into account in any matter affecting you. Article 31 talks about your right to participate in leisure, cultural and artistic activities.

Children's right of access to the media, including new media

The right to freedom of expression is defined in Article 13, which also says that you also have the right to receive and share information of all kinds either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of your choice.

Children's right to media education and literacy

Article 17 recognizes "the important function performed by the mass media," and calls on those governments who have signed up to the Convention to "ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources." It also encourages the media "to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child," and calls on governments to encourage the development of guidelines to protect children from harmful material. Articles 28 and 29 (right to education) are also relevant.

Children's right to protection from harm in the media and violence on the screen

Articles 34 and 36 require that children should be protected from sexual and other forms of exploitation, including pornography

For more information, please contact:

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Youth & media – interesting links and resources

- CRC in English
 - http://www.unicef.org/voy/media/CRC_english_language_version.pdf
 - full version of the CRC
 - CRC in Italian
 - <http://www.unicef.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3155>
 - Italian language version of the CRC
 - CRC in 60+ languages
 - http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/rights/explore_2781.html
 - The CRC and the media
 - http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/media/explore_3028.html
 - Explanations on how some of the articles in the CRC reflect upon children and their use of media, their access to the media and the protection they need.
 - Voices Of Vouth (VOY) Media Magic pages
 - http://www.unicef.org/voy/explore/media/explore_media.php
 - The VOY Media Magic pages show good examples of youth media projects from around the world. There is also a news section and a link to an interesting email-list where you can receive free updates on youth media opportunities, projects, websites, awards, events, etc.
 - MAGIC website
 - <http://www.unicef.org/magic>
 - News section is outdated, please visit the VOY Media Magic pages for that. However, the resources and links are still up to date and explain the Oslo Challenge (1999) and the relationship between children and the media in detail.
 - TheOneMinutesJr
 - <http://www.theoneminutesjr.org>
 - Very interesting project supported by UNICEF and the European Cultural Foundation (www.eurocult.org). The project enables young people aged 12-20 to produce short videos (exactly one minute long) about different topics, from their perspective and in a highly participatory way.
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