



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

- The Children's Convention (UNCRC) was adopted by the United Nations in 1989.
- The fact that virtually the entire world society has endorsed it gives the Convention a significant political, moral and also legal force.
- When states ratify the Convention they undertake to change their national legislation to be in agreement with the provisions in the document.

The convention has four general principles:

1. **Non-discrimination** (Article 2)
2. **The best interests of the child.** (Article 3)
3. **All children have the inherent right to life and development** (Article 6)
4. **Participation.** All children have the right to be heard (Article 12)

The gradual development of the child is an underlying principle in the convention, which is why the child should have increasing influence on its life until reaching the age of maturity.

- The Children's Convention has been very important for children in many countries.
- After the convention was adopted there have been many positive developments:
 - More children live to adulthood,
 - Fewer children are suffering from malnutrition
 - More and more children – girls and boys – are attending school
 - Harmful customs and the use of violence are discussed and rejected.
- The central authorities have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Children's Convention. Since parents and caregivers are the ones living with the children every day, it is up to us to ensure that their rights are respected.