



**Australian
Human Rights
Commission**

everyone, everywhere, everyday



**Human rights
education resources
for teachers**



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Child rights

Child rights



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Subjects: Civics and Citizenship, Society and Environment (all)
Level: Year 5 and up (10 years and up)
Time needed: 1–4 lessons

Introduction

All people – no matter their age, sex, colour, religion or where they live – have the same basic needs to live a healthy life. These needs include food, shelter, education, healthcare and freedom from persecution and discrimination.

Through the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), the governments of the world agreed that people have a right to have these basic needs met. Denying people their basic rights not only leads to the personal suffering of individuals – it can result in conflict and unrest in societies.

In addition to the rights in the UDHR, children have supplementary rights that recognise those things that they need to help them survive and develop to their full potential.

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) sets out these rights – and Australia, along with nearly every other country in the world, has agreed to protect these rights.

Aim

This series of activities will help students to:

- understand the difference between rights and wants
- research important aspects of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- appreciate the important rights in their life
- consider the rights issues that children in Australian immigration detention centres faced prior to policy change.

They can be photocopied for class use and used individually or as an entire resource.

Learning outcomes

Students will have the opportunity to:

- discuss rules and laws that affect young people and assess these according to fairness and appropriateness
- identify key personnel within the legal system who protect peoples rights
- define and exercise personal and shared rights and responsibilities within local contexts.

Activities/resources

- Activity sheet: Rights and wants
- Resource sheet: Human rights images
- Activity sheet: Rights and wants
- Activity sheet: Getting to know the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Child friendly version)
- Activity sheet: A last resort
- Resource sheet: A last resort
- Activity sheet: A last resort

Teaching strategies

Teaching strategies

Teachers should familiarize themselves with the rights covered in both the UDHR and the CRC prior to the lesson. These are available for download at:

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/>