



Updated 2/2017

An Introduction to Children Rights

Video Outline

CENTRAL IDEA

Human and Child Rights are not a “Western” idea or value but rather are universal in concept. The three core documents for child protection are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In addition to these, there have been many other regional and international documents, which build on and support these three documents.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify the three core child protection documents by name
- Identify key differences between the core documents

DEFINITIONS

(None)

CORE DOCUMENTS OF HUMAN & CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

- 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved by the United Nations
- 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child approved by the United Nations
- 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is written by the African Community. It became effective in 1999.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (1948)

Includes:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| ✓ Life | ✓ Property |
| ✓ Liberty | ✓ Thought |
| ✓ Privacy | ✓ Expression |
| ✓ Movement | ✓ Assembly |
| ✓ Asylum | ✓ Education |
| ✓ Nationality | ✓ Participation |

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (1989)

Adds:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Name | ✓ Participation |
| ✓ Legal Identity | ✓ Safe Drinking Water |
| ✓ Family | ✓ Protection as a Refugee |
| ✓ Play | ✓ Assistance in War |

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- ✓ Education for the disabled
- ✓ Protection from kidnapping, harmful labor, exploitation, & abuse
- ✓ Children under 15 are not allowed in war or the military
- ✓ The “Best Interest of the Child” is the most important consideration for decisions regarding the child.

AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (1990)

Bans:

- ✓ Child Marriage
- ✓ Child Soldiers
- ✓ Drug Abuse
- ✓ Human Trafficking
- ✓ Apartheid Discrimination

Addresses:

- ✓ Children of imprisoned mothers
- ✓ Adoption
- ✓ Girls return to school after pregnancy

Declares children’s responsibilities, which include:

- ✓ Working for family cohesion
- ✓ Respecting parents & elders
- ✓ Serving the national community
- ✓ Working for national solidarity
- ✓ Strengthening cultural values
- ✓ Preserving national independence
- ✓ Promoting African unity

NOTE: There have been many other regional and international documents protecting child rights, which build on and support these three documents.