

The UNCRC story

You can use this story from Children's Parliament as an introduction to the UNCRC and to set the scene for activities. The Children's Parliament [Wee Book of Promises](#) can be used to learn about the different rights in the UNCRC.¹

See the resources suggested at the end of this section for further ideas for using the UNCRC story.

The United Nations is a worldwide organisation – nearly every country in the world is a member. It was created in 1948 after World War 2 to try to make sure countries worked together in peace and harmony to make the world a better place for everyone.

In 1989, a very exciting thing happened. Some people think it's the most important thing ever to happen for children. Leaders from all the countries in the world met to talk about children. They agreed that much more needed to be done to help improve children's lives in every country in the world. They created a list of children's human rights to help keep children happy, healthy and safe, and to ensure that every child is treated with kindness, empathy, trust and dignity.

Human rights belong to everyone in the world – every adult and every child. Children's human rights are important because they are promises from adults to children, to make sure children have the basic things they need to thrive and flourish. The list of children's human rights is called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). You can read all about your rights in your very own Wee Book of Promises.

Rights exist to help keep you happy, healthy and safe. If you ever feel worried or scared, then it is important for you to choose an adult you trust and share your worry with them. Having a right is an entitlement – something that should not be taken away from you. All your rights are equally important, and they are all connected.

You have your rights at home, in the classroom, in the playground, when walking or travelling to school, when playing with friends, when you're with your social worker or support worker, when out and about in your community...you have them all the time!

Your rights are precious, like jewels, because without them, children might not be happy, healthy and safe. All of us, adults and children, must protect these rights and defend them if they are not being respected.

¹ Children's Parliament (2019) Wee book of promises. URL: <https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Wee-Book-of-PromisesChildrens-Parliament-2019.pdf>