

OUR RIGHTS



World Vision®



**OUR
RIGHTS**

OUR VISION

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness;
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WORLD VISION is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good of the Kingdom of God.

WE PURSUE THIS MISSION through integrated holistic commitment to transformational development that is community-based and sustainable, focused especially on the needs of children; Emergency Relief that assist people afflicted by conflicts or disaster; Promotion of Justice that seeks to change unjust structures affecting the poor among whom we work; Strategic Initiatives that serve the church in the fulfilment of its mission; Public Awareness that leads to inform understanding, giving, involvement and prayer; Witness to Jesus Christ by life, deed, word and sign that encourage people to respond to the Gospel.

CORE VALUES

- **We are Christian**
In the abundance of God's love, we find our call to serve others.
- **We are committed to the poor**
We are called to relieve their need and suffering, engaging in a relationship between the poor and the affluent.
- **We value people**
We regard all people as created and loved by God, each with a unique claim to dignity, respect and intrinsic worth.
- **We are stewards**
We are faithful to the purpose for which we receive resources and manage them in a manner that brings maximum benefit to the poor.
- **We are partners**
As members of the World Vision Partnership, we accept the obligations of joint participation, shared goals and mutual accountability.
- **We are responsive**
We are responsive to life-threatening emergencies as well as to complex socio-economic situations requiring long-term development.

PREFACE

Child protection is critical to fulfilling child rights and achieving the well-being of children especially, that children “are cared for”, protected and participating. Child protection is also an expression of World Vision's Christian commitment. God's love for all children is seen through Jesus' high regard for children and his instruction to cause no harm to children and his focus on care for orphans and the 'least among us'. This booklet seeks to teach children their rights and responsibilities, family welfare, community care as well as promote and strengthen the resilience and well-being of children, particularly the most vulnerable. It targets all children, especially our Children's Clubs such as Child Rights Advocacy Club, Health Club, Child Parliament and Reading Clubs in the different communities.

Hubert Charles
National Director

INTRODUCTION

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Child friendly version.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of November 20, 1989. It entered into force on September 2, 1990, in accordance with article 49.

“Rights” are things every child should have or be able to do.

All children have the same rights.

The rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Almost every country has agreed to these rights.

All the rights are connected to each other, and are all equally important.

Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of, what is best for children in the situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm.

As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

ARTICLE 1

Every child under 18 years of age has the right in this convention.

ARTICLE 2

The convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.



ARTICLE 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.



RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



ARTICLE 4

Governments should make these rights available to children.

ARTICLE 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.



ARTICLE 6

All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.



RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



ARTICLE 7

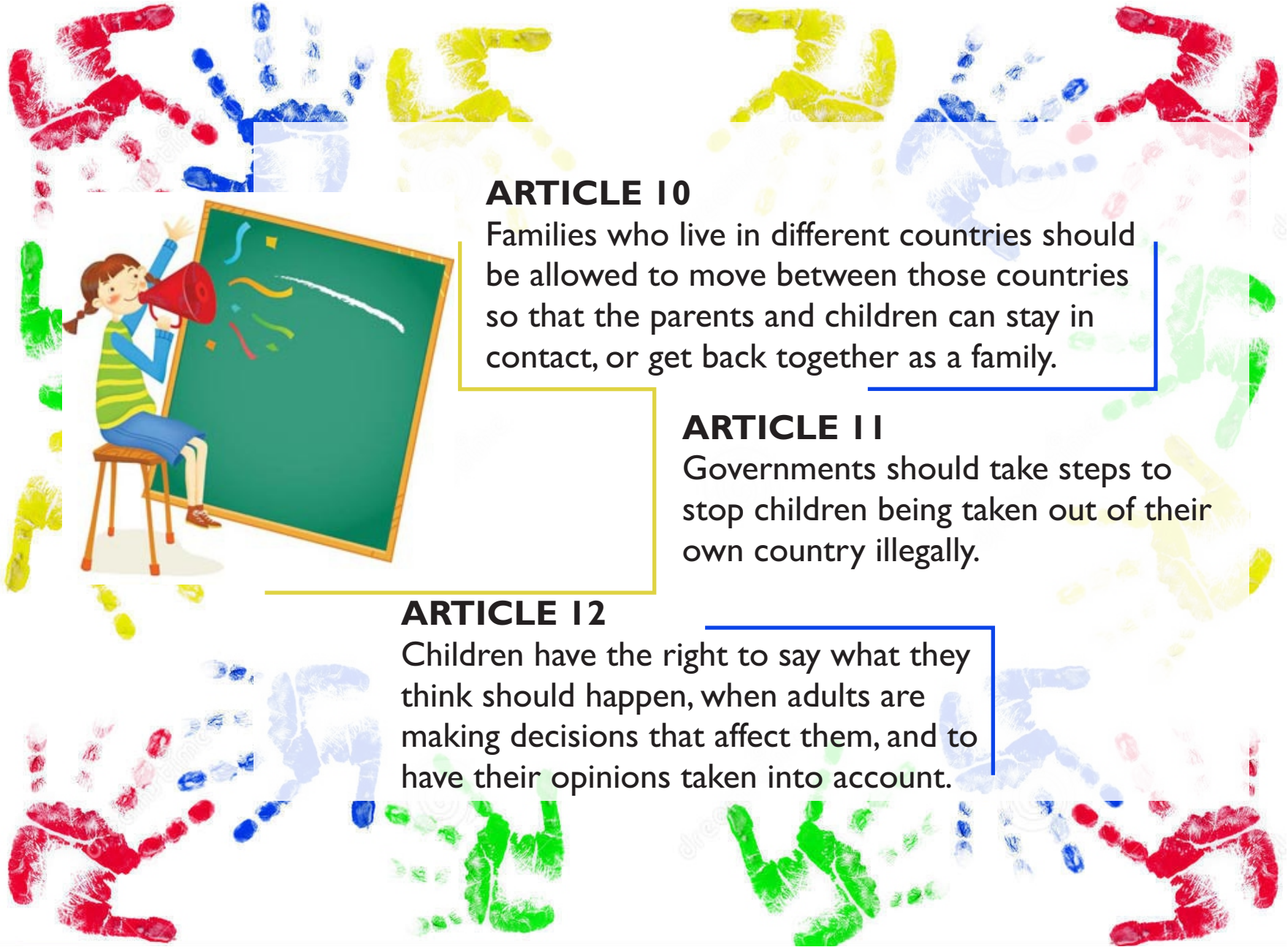
All children have the right to a legally registered name, and nationality. Also the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

ARTICLE 8

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

ARTICLE 9

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good. For example, if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.



ARTICLE 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that the parents and children can stay in contact, or get back together as a family.

ARTICLE 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

ARTICLE 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.



ARTICLE 13

Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

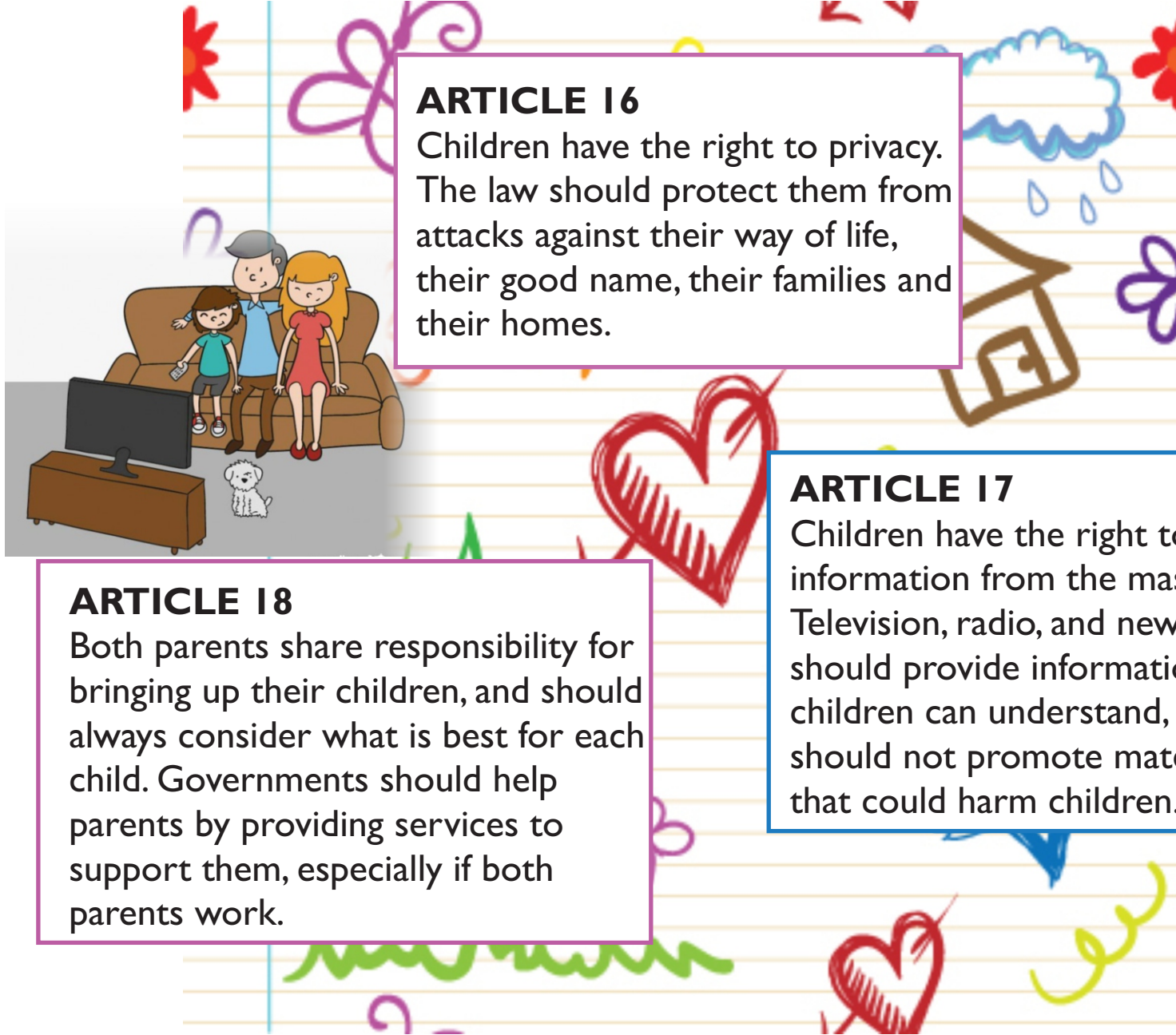
ARTICLE 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

ARTICLE 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.





ARTICLE 16

Children have the right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

ARTICLE 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

ARTICLE 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio, and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.



ARTICLE 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence , abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

ARTICLE 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

ARTICLE 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born, or if they are taken to live in another country.

ARTICLE 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.



ARTICLE 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support, so that they can lead full and independent lives.



ARTICLE 24

Children have the right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment, so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries to achieve this.



ARTICLE 28

Children have the right to education. Discipline in schools should respect children's dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.



ARTICLE 29

Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should encourage children to respect other's human rights and their own and other cultures.



ARTICLE 30

Children have the right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.





ARTICLE 32

The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous, or that might harm their health or their education.

ARTICLE 31

All children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities.

ARTICLE 33

The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.





ARTICLE 34

The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

ARTICLE 35

The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

ARTICLE 36

Children should be protected from any activity that could harm their development.



ARTICLE 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

ARTICLE 38

Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special protection.



ARTICLE 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect and dignity.

ARTICLE 41

If the law of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should stay.

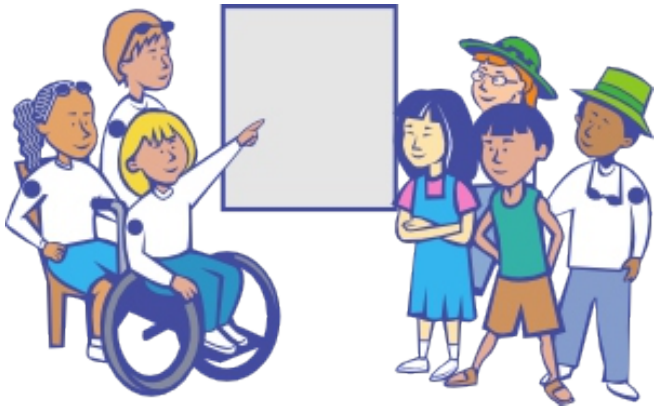
ARTICLE 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all adults and children.

ARTICLE 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.





The Convention on the Rights of the Child has 54 articles in all.

Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children get all their rights.

Whose responsibility?

Children's rights are a special case because many of the rights laid down in the Convention on the Rights of the Child have to be provided by adults or the state.

However, the Convention also refers to the responsibilities of children, in particular to respect the rights of others, especially their parents (Article 29).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CHILD

If every child, regardless of their sex, ethnic origin, social status, language, age, nationality or religion has these rights, then they also have a responsibility to respect each other in a humane way.

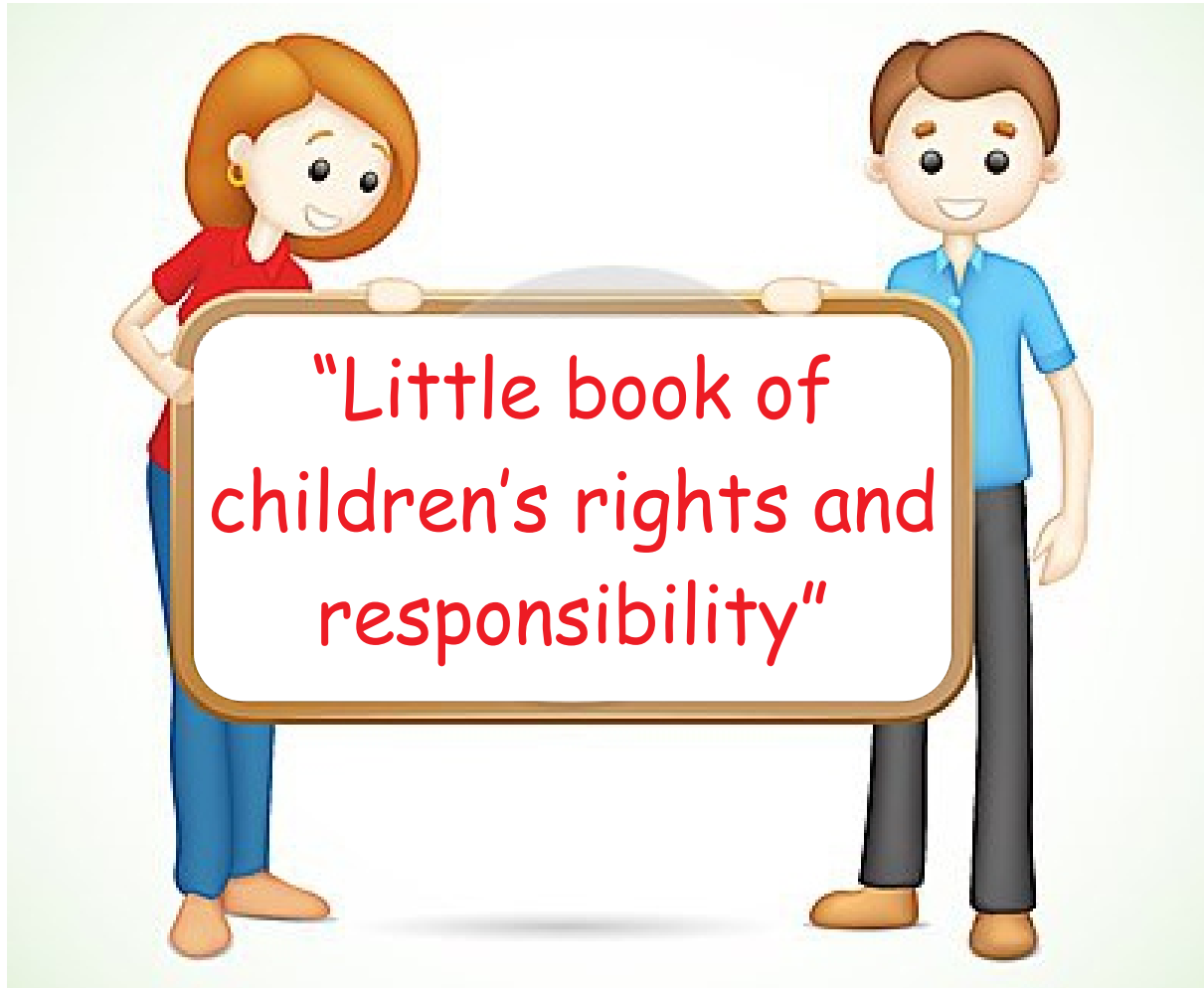
If children have a right to be protected from conflict, cruelty, exploitation and neglect, then they also have a responsibility not to bully or harm each other.

If children have a right to a clean environment, then they also have a responsibility to do what they can to look after their environment.

If children have the right to be educated, then they have the obligation to learn as much as their capabilities allow and, where possible, share their knowledge and experience with others.

If all children have a right to full life, then they should also lend help so the needy, the disadvantaged, and the victims of discrimination also enjoy this right.

If children have a right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, then they also have the obligation to respect other's thoughts or religious principles.



"Little book of
children's rights and
responsibility"



Reference

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
2009

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