



TAKE ACTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD!



GET INFORMED, GET INVOLVED, AND GET OTHERS INTERESTED

IF YOU HAVE

10
Minutes

- **Learn the Facts.** Read our fact sheet on the Rights of the Child and then test your knowledge with our short quiz at www.discoverhumanrights.org/human_rights_toolkits.
- **Get the News.** Receive news and action opportunities from these child rights organizations:
 - Child Rights Information Network: www.crin.org
 - Children's Defense Fund: www.childrensdefense.org
 - Children's Rights: www.childrensrights.org
- **Send an Email.** Send a pre-written email to your Senators supporting important human and child rights issues. The ACLU maintains an Action Center with alerts on current issues: <http://action.aclu.org>
- **Donate.** Give to an organization advocating for children's rights. Check out the national resource list in this toolkit.

IF YOU HAVE

A Few
Hours

- **Watch a Film.** Learn about children's rights and violations of children's rights through watching a film such as TPT and Amherst A. Wilder Foundation's video "Homeless Youth: Finding Home."
- **Write a Letter.** Research and write a personal letter to your federal representatives urging ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). To find your federal representative, visit: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.
- **Educate.** Download our lesson plans at www.discoverhumanrights.org/lesson_plans_2.html and educate others in your school or community about children's rights. Also check out The Advocates' human rights education newsletter on the Rights of the Child at www.discoverhumanrights.org/rights_sites_news.

IF YOU HAVE

A
Month

- **Start a Book Club.** Get friends together to read books on the topic of children's rights. Consider books such as *Growing Up in the Care of Strangers: The Experiences, Insights and Recommendations of Eleven Former Foster Kids*, edited by Waln K. Brown and John R. Seita, or *Ghost Girl: The True Story of a Child in Peril and the Teacher Who Saved Her*, by Torey Hayden.
- **Host a Film screening.** Invite members of your community to watch a film about domestic or international children's rights.
- **Invite a Speaker.** Invite a local children's rights advocate to give a presentation to your school, community center, or faith-based community. Potential speakers to invite include: an advocate for homeless youth, a child rights activist, or a legislator.

IF YOU HAVE

A Year
or More

- **Be a Mentor.** Being a responsible role model can make a lasting impact in a child's life. There are organizations that match adults with children in need of a mentor, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (www.bbbs.org). You can also become a mentor to a family member or family friend.
- **Run for Office.** Children need to be represented and do not have the ability to run for office themselves. Being an active child's rights advocate and policymaker can ensure that the rights of children are protected.
- **Volunteer.** Use your time to help others at a location that helps children. There are examples of places to look in the resource guide in this toolkit.



RIGHTS OF THE CHILD NATIONAL RESOURCES



Administration for Children and Families

www.acf.hhs.gov/

A branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, the ACF is in charge of federal programs focused around the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.

The Advocates for Human Rights

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org

Works to apply international human rights standards in the U.S. and the world. The Advocates also works to educate about human rights and provides free resources for educators.

American Civil Liberties Union

www.aclu.org/human-rights/childrens-rights

The ACLU Human Rights Program works to ensure that the U.S. complies with universal human rights principles and the U.S. Constitution. This page is devoted to information on children's rights.

American Humane

www.americanhumane.org

American Humane is an organization devoted to promoting the safety and well-being of children and animals. They have helped form many policies, curricula, and training programs throughout the U.S. to prevent the cruelty, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children and animals.

Amnesty International USA

www.amnestyusa.org/children

Provides information on child exploitation and the rights of children. Children's Rights is one of Amnesty's priorities and Amnesty dubs children's rights as the "blocks with which we build a human rights culture in societies and secure human rights for future generations."

Annie E. Casey Foundation

www.aecf.org

A private charitable organization that fosters public policy and community supports for disadvantaged children and families. They also publish a yearly report entitled, "Kids Count Data Book" that summarizes the status of children across the United States.

Boys and Girls Clubs of America

www.bgca.org

Provides a safe place for children to play and enhance their development. The Boys and Girls Clubs work to instill a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence in youth around the country.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

www.bbbs.org

The oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States. BBBS has been the leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century, developing positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people.

Casey Family Programs

www.casey.org

Advocates for child welfare and reform at the state and federal level and partners with community members and groups on effective child welfare programs. The main focus of this organization is reducing the need for foster care in the United States.

Child Rights and You

www.cry.org

A non-profit organization that partners with existing grassroots non-governmental organizations which work with children, parents, and communities to work toward ensuring rights for children.

Child Rights Campaign

www.childrightscampaign.org/

Works to achieve ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by the US Senate and implement its standards in the US.

Child Rights Information Network

www.crin.org/forchildren

CRIN advocates for children's rights based on the UNCRC. They release reports and news about worldwide and domestic child rights violations and act as a resource for organizations and individuals to remain updated on children's rights affairs.

Children's Defense Fund

www.childrensdefense.org/

Researches and publishes reports on and champions policies that address domestic progress on child poverty, abuse and neglect, access to health care, and quality education.

Children's Rights

www.childrensrights.org/

A national advocacy group working in the United States to reform failing child welfare systems on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of abused and neglected children who depend on them for protection and care.

ECPAT-USA

<http://ecpatusa.org/wp/>

The leading policy organization fighting to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation in the United States.

Free the Children

<http://www.freethechildren.com/>

An organization devoted to children helping children through education and social work. Main goals of this organization are to break the cycle of poverty through youth empowerment and leadership.

Human Rights Watch

www.hrw.org/united-states

Provides regularly updated reports on children's rights throughout the world and in the United States.

PeaceJam Foundation

www.peacejam.org

An organization aimed at promoting non-violence on a local and global level by connecting Nobel Peace Prize Laureates with youth through service-learning.

Voices of Youth

www.unicef.org/voy

Voices of Youth is an outlet for children from around the world to exchange their knowledge and ideas, including through child rights forums and examples of how to take action against rights violations.