

# The significance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child



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# The Convention combines all human rights

- **Civil and Political Rights:**
  - For example: identity, nationality, participation and religious freedom.
- **Economic and Social Rights:**
  - For example: education, health and a decent standard of living.
- **Cultural rights:**
  - For example: leisure and participation in cultural life.

# Ratification from an ethical point

- **The state recognizes that:**
  - equality is the foundation for freedom, justice and peace
  - the family is the environment for the growth and well-being of children
  - families should get the necessary assistance from the government
  - the child should grow up in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding
  - the child should be brought up in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity

# Ratification from a legal point

- **The state obliges itself:**
  - to adapt its legislation according to the convention
  - to undertake all appropriate measures to implement the rights



Photo: Petrína Ásgeirsdóttir

# Children's Rights – articles 1 - 41

- **Provision:** the right to possess, receive or have access to certain things or services
- **Protection:** the right to be protected from harmful acts and practises
- **Participation:** the right to be heard and to take part in the society

# Key principles

- Non discrimination – article 2
  - all rights should be granted to each child without discrimination of any kind
- Best interests of the Child – article 3
  - social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities and legislative bodies should ensure the protection and care which is necessary for the child's well-being
- Right to life, survival and development – article 6
  - the right to life and the state's obligation to ensure the child's survival and development
- Views of the Child – article 12
  - the right of the child to express his or her opinion and to have this taken into consideration



# Implementation

- Implementation is the process where States take action to ensure the realization of all rights in the Convention for all children in their jurisdiction. (Committee on the Rights of the Child)
- It is **fundamental** to ensure that all domestic legislation is fully compatible with the Convention. (Committee on the Rights of the Child)
- For an effective implementation we need:
  - development of special structures
  - monitoring
  - training
  - other activities in government, parliament and the judiciary at all levels (Committee on the Rights of the Child)

## Implementation:

- is about a mind-set and a collaboration across sectors
- requires time, people and money – we need to prioritise

# Sjumilssteget in Norway

- **Emphasizes on:**

- Participation - article 12
- Good care – article 18
- Special support - article 20
- Protection against violence – article 19
- Life with dignity for disabled children - article 23
- Good health - article 24
- Good education – article 29

**New ways of:**

- collaboration and integration across sectors
- planning
- involving children.

[www.sjumilssteget.no](http://www.sjumilssteget.no)



## Sources / further information

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child: <http://www.boes.org/un/engun-b.html>
- <http://www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus/treaties/child.asp>
- Committee on the Rights of the Child:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx>
- General comments from the Committee:  
[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=5&DocTypeID=11](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en&TreatyID=5&DocTypeID=11)
- General comments from the Committee on implementation:  
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- Styrker barns medvirkning: <http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/blt/aktuelt/nyheter/2014/Styrker-barns-medvirkning.html?id=761260>
- Karl Harald Sövig: *BARNETS RETTIGHETER PÅ BARNETS PREMISSE* - utfordringer i møtet mellom FNs barnekonvensjon og norsk rett:  
[http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/BLD/Barnets%20rettigheter/Utdredning\\_Sovig\\_end\\_versj.pdf](http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/BLD/Barnets%20rettigheter/Utdredning_Sovig_end_versj.pdf)
- Sjumilssteget i Norge: <http://sjumilssteget.no/>
- Kennsluvefur um barnasáttmálann: <http://barnasattmali.is/>

Thank  
you!

