



STICHTING
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ZUID
AFRIKA



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Introduction

Stichting Projecten Zuid-Afrika (SPZA) - South Africa Foundation and its partners focus on children. Children's rights are important to us and taking them into account is part of our job.

'Although the United Nations proclaimed the universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959, not a great number of people, children and grownups alike, know what these rights are' Desmond Tutu. ¹

We think that everybody should know the rights of the child.

For issues and questions concerning children's rights please get in touch with the international children's rights organisation: Defence for Children International. On their website you will also find information about the Defence for Children organisation in your own country: www.defenceforchildren.org

Declaration to the Rights of the Child (1959) : Preamble ²

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas the United Nations has, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Whereas the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth,

Whereas the need for such special safeguards has been stated in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924, and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the statutes of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children,






Whereas mankind owes to the child the best it has to give,





Now therefore, The General Assembly

Proclaims this Declaration of the Rights of the Child to the end that he may have a happy childhood and enjoy for his own good and for the good of society the rights and freedoms herein set forth, and calls upon parents, upon men and women as individuals, and upon voluntary organizations, local authorities and national Governments to recognize these rights and strive for their observance by legislative and other measures progressively taken in accordance with the following principles:

¹ Foreword to The rights of a child. 1st ed. Cape Town: Kwela Books, Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 2004. ISBN 0-7957-0164-4. Book in full colour with beautiful drawings and a summary of children's rights in the 11 official languages of South Africa: Afrikaans, English, IsiNdebele, IsiXhosa, IsiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, SiSwati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. Unfortunately out of print.

² The United Nations and Human Rights, 1945-1995, Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York 1995. ISBN 92-1-100560-4. This document is a non-binding resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. It should not be confused with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the thirtieth anniversary of this document, 20 November 1989. That document is a binding treaty to which 176 nations have become "states parties".

Declaration (1959) ¹	Summary ²	
<p>Principle 1 The child shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration. Every child, without any exception whatsoever, shall be entitled to these rights, without distinction or discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, whether of himself or of his family.</p>	<p>To enjoy the very best the world has to give.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukuxhamla oko ihlabathi linokukunika.</p>	
<p>Principle 2 The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.</p>	<p>To grow up in freedom and with dignity.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukukhula bekhululekile benesidima.</p>	
<p>Principle 3 The child shall be entitled from his birth to a name and a nationality.</p>	<p>To have a name and a country of their own.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukuba negama nelizwe elilelabo.</p>	
<p>Principle 4 The child shall enjoy the benefits of social security. He shall be entitled to grow and develop in health; to this end, special care and protection shall be provided both to him and to his mother, including adequate prenatal and post-natal care. The child shall have the right to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services.</p>	<p>To be fed when hungry and nursed when sick.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukondliwa xa belambile nokongiwa xa begula.</p>	
<p>Principle 5 The child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his particular condition.</p>	<p>To get special care if they are handicapped in any way.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukuhoywa ngokukodwa xa bekhubazeke nanagyiphi na indlela.</p>	

Declaration (1959) ¹	Summary ²	
<p>Principle 6 The child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, needs love and understanding. He shall, wherever possible, grow up in the care and under the responsibility of his parents, and, in any case, in an atmosphere of affection and of moral and material security; a child of tender years shall not, save in exceptional circumstances, be separated from his mother. Society and the public authorities shall have the duty to extend particular care to children without a family and to those without adequate means of support. Payment of State and other assistance towards the maintenance of children of large families is desirable.</p>	<p>To have a family that loves and cares for them.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukuba nosapho olubathandayo nolubakhathaleleyo.</p>	
<p>Principle 7 The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He shall be given an education which will promote his general culture and enable him, on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society. The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents. The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation, which should be directed to the same purposes as education; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right.</p>	<p>To go to school and not have to work to earn money.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukukhamba isikolo bangaphangeli ukwenzela uwamkela imali.</p>	
<p>Principle 8 The child shall in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief.</p>	<p>To be helped in times of trouble and danger.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukuncedwa ngamaxesha enxaki nengozi.</p>	
<p>Principle 9 The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form. The child shall not be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age; he shall in no case be caused or permitted to engage in any occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education, or interfere with his physical, mental or moral development.</p>	<p>To be protected from neglect, cruelty and abuse.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukukhuselwa ekungakhathale lweni, kwinkohlakalo nasekuxhatsazweni.</p>	
<p>Principle 10 The child shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other form of discrimination. He shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood, and in full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men.</p>	<p>To be loved, and in return spread peace and understanding.</p> <p>isiXhosa: Ukuthandwa ukuze basasaze uxolo nokwazelelela.</p>	