

Are you below 18 years old?

Join the OP3 CRC tour!



Ready...set...go!



This folder belongs to:

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OP3 CRC

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure

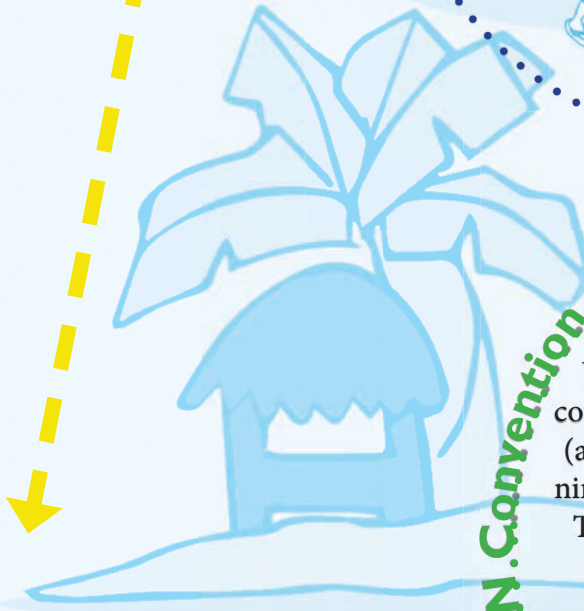
Tour starts here!



1

A child like you has rights..What is a right?

Rights are things all children have. Examples of these rights are the right to live and be in a safe environment, the right to have a name and a nationality, the right to express oneself, and the right to be protected from violence and abuse.



2

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC is a written agreement or contract among countries to promote and protect the rights of children (all human beings below the age of 18). One hundred ninety-three (193) countries have ratified the UNCRC. To ratify means to agree to do or to follow what the Convention says.



What is the UN

The UN is an international organization. Most nations are part of the UN and send representatives to hold meetings and discuss about global issues like environment, health, and others. It also prepares agreements meant for boys, women, and our planet.

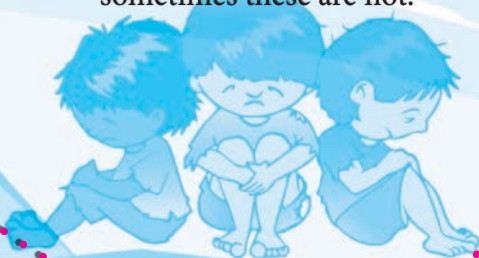


What if there are violations of children's rights?

There are times when children's rights are not protected such as when they are asked to do dangerous work in mines or factories (child labor), when they experience harm from people who take care of them (child abuse), or when they are recruited to participate in war (child soldiers).

Sometimes when children are hurt, they go to authorities like the police and the courts to complain about what happened to them. Sometimes their complaints are resolved, sometimes these are not.

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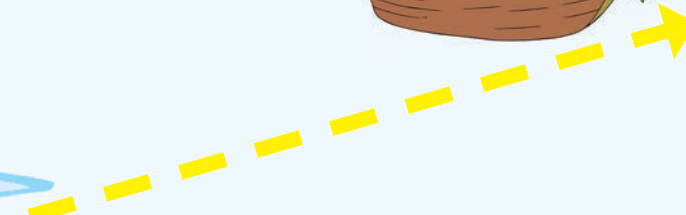
What if violations do not get resolved?

The OP3 CRC allows children to submit their complaints to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is fully protected in their countries. These are called communications.



4





Important to Know
 Before children or their representatives can file a complaint to the UN Committee about violations of their rights, the Government where the children live should have ratified the UNCRC and OP3.

What is OP3 CRC?

It is an optional protocol* or document that explains the procedure for reporting violations of children's rights to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Through the OP3 CRC, children like you will be able to:

- Inform the Committee about how you were harmed and what you want to happen to seek justice
- Ask the Committee for help so it can tell your government to respect and protect the rights of children like you
- Make the UN aware of harms children like you have experienced and help them think of ways on how these can be addressed and prevented

If the Committee finds that there was a violation of children's rights, it will make concrete recommendations to government, such as:

- Providing care and support to the harmed child
- Immediately taking the child out of the dangerous situation
- Asking the government to take the people who harmed the child to court

**There are three optional protocols (OPs) to the UNCRC. The first OP relates to children in situations of war or armed conflict (OPAC) and the other on children who are sold or who are victims of prostitution or pornography (OPSC). OP3 CRC is the third optional protocol.*

United Nations (U.N.)?
 is an organization. The members of representatives and make decisions concerning the education, among others international to protect girls, men, and also net.

ved?
 their RC provides an representatives to report appropriate action.

a complaint to the UN when their rights are not complaints are also called

We need your help!



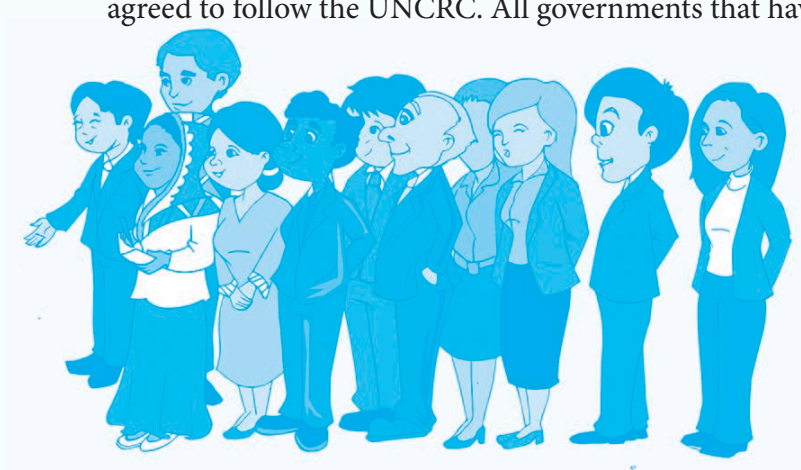
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What is the Committee on the Rights of the Child?

The Committee is a group of 18 international child rights experts which keeps track of how governments are fulfilling the commitments they made when they agreed to follow the UNCRC. All governments that have committed to implement the UNCRC must submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights of the children are being fulfilled in their country.



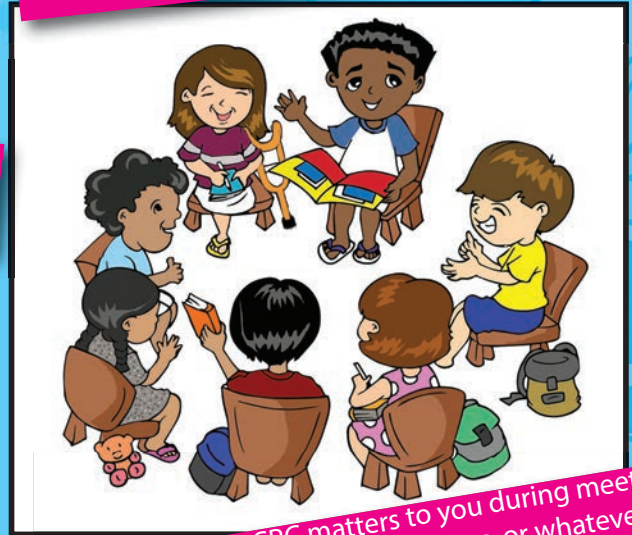
Be a part of the global effort to **ratify OP3 CRC!**



Share what you learned about OP3 CRC to your family and inform them about OP3 CRC activities that can be supported.



Write to your government like the Foreign Affairs Ministry or Social Welfare Ministry and tell them why they should ratify OP3 CRC.



Explain why OP3 CRC matters to you during meetings you attend, relevant conferences, or whatever appropriate chance you can get.



Write about the importance of ratifying OP3 CRC in your newsletter, blogs, in social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

Link with friends and other organizations that are also working for the ratification of OP3 CRC.

Sources:

- "Speak Up for Your Rights OP3 CRC", produced by Child Rights Connect for Ratify OP3 - International Coalition for the OPCRC on a Communications Procedure
- "Raising Understanding among Children and Young People on the OPCP", produced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children



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