

# UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Adapted from: UN Works, What's Going On?

([www.un.org/works/goingon/refugees/lessonplan\\_refugees.html](http://www.un.org/works/goingon/refugees/lessonplan_refugees.html))

Materials: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>,

(<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/pdf/crc.pdf>)

1. Provide the students with this information on refugees on an overhead projector as:  
Refugees are persons who have fled their homes and cannot return because they fear their life is in danger. People become refugees when one or more of their basic needs are violated or threatened.  
The convention we will be looking at defines refugee as 'a refugee is a person who owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion is outside the country of his nationality and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return home.'  
Many who are forced to leave their homes end up in refugee camps. Refugee camps often lack water, electricity, sanitation and health care. They are usually overcrowded and unhygienic. There are no play grounds, few doctors and little of no school.  
Fact: There are approx. 10.6 million refugees in the world today
2. Explain to students: In 1989, world leader decided that children under 18 years of age often need special care that adults do not. The convention is the first legally binding international document to incorporate civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights for children. However some countries like the US and Somalia did not agree to sign the document.  
Note: it is important in this lesson that the teacher insures all vocabulary is known and discussed if needed to ensure full understand for all students.
3. Divide the official document into manageable sections. Reassure students that it is okay that they do not understand some of the language in the document and they are to take away the information that able to. Assign students as experts for a specific portion of the document. Students will read this portion and fill out four quadrant notes (see attached handout).
4. One student from each section will join together to form an information circle where they will exchange and discuss what they took out of their portion of the document.
5. Have a group discussion surrounding the following questions:  
Are other countries responsible for taking in refugees? What if a refugee was forced back into the country they fled from? What rights that we read about would be violated?
6. Students will finish the lesson with a quick right or mind map that expresses what they think are the keep parts of the document and how this connects to what they have learned about refugees in previous classes.

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