



**THIRTY WAYS TO CELEBRATE
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AT 30**

SAVE THE DATE!
20 NOVEMBER 2019

unicef 
UNITED KINGDOM



**RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS**



A BIG BIRTHDAY

World Children's Day is on 20 November 2019. And this year it's a special one – the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child will be 30 years old!

A lot has happened to improve the lives of children across the world since the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention in 1989. We've put together 30 activities to celebrate the 30 years of fantastic progress that's been made for children and young people.

These activities will inform children about their rights while celebrating this historic anniversary. The activities can be incorporated into lesson plans or assemblies. Each activity can be completed by the whole school, a year group, class, steering group, committee or individuals. You don't need to do the activities in any particular order – just pick a selection that works best for your pupils.

We'd love to know how you're celebrating the Convention's 30th birthday. Share your plans on social media including the hashtag #WorldChildrensDay.





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1 Assemblies

Build knowledge of children's rights in your school with our fun and informative assemblies.

unicef.uk/primary_assemblies

unicef.uk/secondary_assemblies

2 Letter to MPs

Which countries haven't ratified the Convention? Compose and send a letter to your local MP or a member of the UK Government asking them to encourage all global leaders to ratify the Convention.

unicef.uk/the_convention

unicef.uk/convention_intro

3 Stop-frame animation

Produce a stop-frame animation exploring the history of the Convention. What has the impact on children's lives been and why are rights important? What are the key things that children around the world need to survive in the future?

4 World events in 1989

Investigate significant world events from 1989 and choose one to explore in depth. For example, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Hillsborough, pro-democracy rallies in China or the Exxon Valdez disaster. For each event, explore what happened and what it meant for children. How were children's rights impacted, and what is different now? Create an assembly, display, animation, film, text, collage or model that reflects your findings.

5 Sign up to OutRight!

This year OutRight celebrates 30 years of children's rights. Explore life before the Convention and think about what could be achieved for children around the world in the next 30 years.

unicef.uk/sign_up_outright_2019

6 Rights training course

Facilitate children and young people to design a training course for staff to explore how they can embed the Convention into their teaching or introduce children's rights to new staff. Both children and teachers at this Silver primary school in Manchester really enjoyed their child-led training session:

unicef.uk/child_rights_training_session

7 The nature of rights

Develop an assembly to ensure your whole school understands the nature of rights being universal, unconditional, inherent, indivisible and inalienable. Use our ABCDE of rights resource to help you:

unicef.uk/abcde

8 Workshop for parents

Develop a workshop for parents and carers or governors to tell them about why children's rights are important to your school, the Convention, your RRSA journey so far, and your next step towards Silver or Gold. You might want to share our film or make your own as part of your workshop:

unicef.uk/talking_about_rrsa_film

9 The big day!

On World Children's Day – 20 November 2019 – share a post on your school's social media channel spreading the message of children's rights and why they are important to your school.

10 Linking values

Explore how your school's values and aims link to the Convention and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Write an article for the next school newsletter, or create a film or a blog to share with the whole school community. For more info on the Goals, go to: Globalgoals.org



11 Duty bearers

Identify the 'duty bearers' in your school. Which rights do they help you realise? Create a poster or write a letter thanking them for enabling your rights. Display some of these around school.

12 Key actions in your journey

What have been the key actions on your rights respecting journey? What has made the biggest difference – include feedback from staff and students.

13 Right to be heard

What opportunities are there in school for young people to exercise their right to a voice? Discuss and identify one or two actions that you can do to make sure all children and young people are listened to.

14 Right to an education

Talk about your right to an education – if you could change one thing in your classroom or school what would it be? Share your ideas and agree the most important. Look at the Features of a Rights Respecting Classroom for inspiration:

unicef.uk/rrsa_classroom

15 Explore one article

Choose an article from the Convention to research and find out more about it. One way to do this is to choose the article that relates to your date of birth. For example, if your birthday is 16 April, choose article 16. Share what you've learnt with the rest of your class and at home. Remember – rights are indivisible, meaning that no right is more important than another one.

16 Take a walk

By walking around, identify places in your school or community where rights are realised or denied. At your school you might include a route that takes in your school playground (article 31), a garden or green space (article 31) or the lunch area (article 24). Further afield, you could walk to a religious building (article 14) or a youth club (article 15). Make a poster to reflect the relevant articles of the Convention and put them up around school or in the wider community. Use the school's social media or the local press to raise awareness of children's rights locally.



17 Equality and equity

Plan and deliver an assembly about equality and equity. Explore your school's behaviour policy with young people. Is it fair? Identify the times when equality and equity are lived out in your school.

18 The right to be safe

Discuss article 19 – the right to be safe. Identify one adult in school that you would feel confident talking to if you didn't feel safe or had a problem. Also think about who you can talk to outside of school. Discuss the role of the NSPCC and Childline.

19 Global Goals

If you haven't already, introduce the Global Goals to your peers by showing a video in assembly and following up with a class discussion about the Goals. Find resources and videos here:

[unicef.uk/global_goals](https://www.unicef.uk/global_goals)

20 News story

Look at the local press, First News or Newsround and identify a current news story linked to children's rights. Rewrite or draw the story to show how the child/children's rights were denied or realised.

21 Take action!

Explore the Global Goals and choose one to focus on as a class or one per person. What action can you take to support your chosen Goal? Set a target and monitor your progress towards your Goal.

[unicef.uk/global_goals](https://www.unicef.uk/global_goals)

22 Global citizen

Explore the skills, attributes, knowledge and action needed to be a 'global citizen'. Create an image, display, project or film to share with the rest of the school. Read how students at Croydon College made an impact on their local and global community:

unicef.uk/croydon_college_global_citizen

23 World's Largest Lesson

Take part in the World's Largest Lesson 2019. Find the resources here:

unicef.uk/WLL

24 Forced to Flee

Around the world, 48 million children have had to leave their homes due to war, climate change, natural disasters or poverty. Our teaching resource, Forced to Flee, provides whole lesson plans for primary and secondary students, exploring issues that migrant and refugee children face.

unicef.uk/forcedtofly

25 Sustainable development

Watch the video at the link below about sustainable development. How can you make a difference as a school? Choose one idea to explore and implement.

unicef.uk/sustainable_development



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26 Safe to Learn

Many children around the world still experience a violation of their rights every day. In our Safe to Learn pack we have lots of activities and lesson plans for both primary and secondary pupils. The activities are linked to rights and Sustainable Development Goals to help you explore how violence can affect children in and around schools.

[unicef.uk/safe_to_learn](https://www.unicef.uk/safe_to_learn)

27 Spread the word about children's rights

Facilitate children and young people to organise a children's rights conference and invite schools in your area that are both rights respecting and not rights respecting. Use our guidance to help you plan your event.

[unicef.uk/running_a_crc_conference](https://www.unicef.uk/running_a_crc_conference)

28 Young people then and now

Talk to your family or carers about their childhood. What was different when they were growing up? How has the Convention impacted children's lives? Draw, write or produce a resource to show a comparison of a young person's experience then and now.



29 Country study

Pick a country you have seen on the news recently or that you are interested in, and find out about the life of a child there. Explore their schools, government, homes, the weather, access to water and nutritious food. Does a child in the country you are investigating experience rights in the same way you do?

30 Youth Advocacy Toolkit

As a class, whole school or a rights respecting steering group explore Unicef's Youth Advocacy Toolkit and identify an issue that is important to you. Use the toolkit to plan your action, ensure your voice is heard and make a difference.

[unicef.uk/youth_advocacy_toolkit](https://www.unicef.uk/youth_advocacy_toolkit)