

International Legal Instruments

**The following is a list of international legal instruments related to missing and exploited children. It is not an exhaustive list, but a sampling of important resources.*

International Legal Instruments

Conventions

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**
<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ICESCR.aspx>
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- **International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>
- **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>
- **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPACCRC.aspx>
- **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>
- **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx>
- **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CAT.aspx>
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/ProfessionalInterest/pages/cedaw.aspx>

- **Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour No. 182**
http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182
- **Minimum Age Convention No. 138**
http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C138
- **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPICCRC.aspx>
- **Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention (Budapest Convention)**
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/0900001680081561>
- **Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)**
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/0900001680084822>
- **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/090000168008371d>
- **Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction**
<https://assets.hcch.net/docs/e86d9f72-dc8d-46f3-b3bf-e102911c8532.pdf>

UN General Comments – Committee on the Rights of the Child

The interpretation by the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the CRC provisions and principles is elaborated in the various General Comments. General Comments analyze and interpret sections of the CRC and provide implementation guidelines. While they are not binding, the General Comments clarify what is expected of member states in fulfilling their obligations to the Convention.

- [General comment No. 19 on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights \(Art. 4\)](#)
- [General comment No. 18 \(Joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child\) on harmful practices](#)
- [General comment No. 17 on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts \(Art. 31\)](#)
- [General comment No. 16 \(2013\) in State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights \(Arts. 2; 3, para. 1; 6; 12\)](#)
- [General comment No. 15 \(2013\) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health \(Art. 24\)](#)
- [General comment No. 14 \(2013\) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration \(Art. 3, para. 1\)](#)
- [General comment No. 13 \(2011\) – The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence \(Art. 19\)](#)
- [General comment No. 12 \(2009\) on the right of the child to be heard](#)

- [General comment No. 11 \(2009\) Indigenous children and their rights under the Convention](#)
- [General comment No. 10 \(2007\) Children's rights in juvenile justice](#)
- [General comment No. 9 \(2006\) The rights of children with disabilities](#)
- [General comment No. 8 \(2006\) The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment \(Arts. 19; 28, para. 2; 37\)](#)
- [General comment No. 7 \(2005\) Implementing child rights in early childhood](#)
- [General comment No. 6 \(2005\) Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separate Children Outside Their Country of Origin](#)
- [General comment No. 5 \(2003\) General Measures of Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [General comment No. 4 \(2003\) Adolescent health and development in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [General comment No. 3 \(2003\) HIV/AIDS and the rights of the children](#)
- [General comment No. 2 \(2002\) The Role of Independent National Human Rights Institutions in the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child](#)
- [General comment No. 1 \(2001\) The Aims of Education \(Art. 29, para. 1\)](#)