

OPERATION 1989

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was approved in 1989. This Operation looks at what was written then, how things have changed in the last 26 years and what it means for the Convention.

MISSION 1: IMPACT

The Convention on the Rights of the Child contains 42 articles that outline your rights (plus another 12 articles describing how those rights should be implemented).

Articles 1 and 2 say that everyone under the age of 18 has those rights. From the Convention, we have grouped some articles and come up with a shorter list of 28 rights.

Which of your rights are impacted - either in a good or a bad way, directly or indirectly - by digital media? (tick as few or as many as you want)

- Right to have your best interests looked after (Art. 3)
- Right to parental guidance (Art. 5)
- Right to survival and development (Art. 6)
- Right to an identity (Art. 7, 8)
- Right to live with, and be raised by family (Art. 9, 10, 18)
- Right to express your views in matters that concern you, and for those to be respected (Art. 12)
- Right to access information (Art. 17)
- Right to privacy (Art. 16)
- Right to special care in some circumstances (Art. 20, 21, 22, 23, 39)
- Right to health (Art. 24, 25)
- Right to social security (Art. 26)
- Right to an adequate standard of living (Art. 27)
- Right to education (Art. 28, 29)
- Right to preserve your own culture, language and religion as a minority (Art. 30)
- Right to leisure, play and culture (Art. 31)
- Right to a juvenile justice system (Art. 40)
- Freedom of expression (Art. 13)
- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Art. 14)
- Freedom of association (Art. 15)
- Protection from all forms of violence (Art. 19)
- Protection from kidnapping (Art. 11)
- Protection from child labour (Art. 32)
- Protection from drug abuse (Art. 33)
- Protection from exploitation (Art. 34, 35, 36)
- Protection from harmful detention and punishment (Art. 37)
- Protection and care in war and armed conflicts (Art. 38)
- Right to benefit from any rights and legislation better than these rights (Art. 41)
- Right for those rights to be known, protected and implemented (Art. 4, 42, 43-54)

MISSION 2: 26 YEARS

Did you notice article 31? That's right, you have the right to rest and play, so now is the time for a bit of fun research!

Find out what things were like 26 years ago when the convention was first approved. Use the internet or ask an adult who remembers that time well for some hints.

If you have access to the internet, find a photo of the 'best' hairstyle or outfit you can find (best, hilarious or craziest!), something that makes you say 'soooo eighties'! Once you've found the photo or made a drawing, send or give it to your teacher.

What was a popular song in your country in 1989? (Write the title and singer/band in the box below, and include a website address to a song/video clip if you can.)

What major event took place in your country that year, or around the world, or in your community?
Describe the event in the box below:

MISSION 3: EVOLVE

So, things have certainly changed since 1989...

If you were invited to review and rewrite the Convention for the Rights of the Child today, what do you think would be debated around the table? What would your arguments be?

Look back to the Convention or the list of 28 rights from Mission 1, and think about the rights that are most impacted by the way technology has changed the world we live in.

Write a couple of paragraphs to answer the following questions in the box below:

- *Should the Convention be updated to reflect the way the world has changed?*
- *Which rights/articles should be changed, or removed? Why?*
- *Which rights/articles do you think are missing?*