

Convention of the Rights of the Child

"Established in 1989 the Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international instrument of Children's Rights protection, which is legally binding all States that have ratified the Convention to ensure that all mentioned rights are respected, also in regard of the protection and promotion of the rights of children with special needs, of minority children and of refugee children."

Haris, Austria

Georgia



Georgia joined the treaty in 1994.

ed to meet the standards of the Convention, s are obliged to transform the standards into children, nevertheless, as armed conflict around the world, increasing numbers of exposed to the brutalities of war. In countries, boys and girls are recruited as child armed forces and groups, either forcibly or

watching the news I can hear about the ussed above happening in my country and it ant to act in order to make a positive Teenagers, school children, the boys and the 8 from Pankisi region are moved to Syria to militants. It's easy to assume that their as its problems, that need to be solved and nt that having agreed to meet the standards ntion, governments are obliged to transform ls into reality for all children.

ch by Marika Abazadze, Georgia.

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The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

By Thomas Dirven, Belgium

The lost generation, that's how Ernest Hemmingway refers to the children who came to age during WW1. They were the worst victims, brutally robbed from their naive carefree lives, forever marked by the atrocities of war. A society where there is no place for playing kids, is doomed to fall apart, because today's children are tomorrow's adults and consequently they represent the hope for a better future.

As a reaction to this, the British social activist, Eglantyne Jebb, founded the first "Declaration of the Rights of the Child" in 1923, a series of rights that focussed on the physical health and the prevention of exploitation of mostly young children.

After another atrocious World War, it became quite clear to the newly formed United Nations that these 'children's rights' had to be extended and clarified, the World Child Welfare Charter was established, doubling the amount of principles from five to ten. And in 1989, the UN General Assembly adopted the "Convention on the Rights of the Child", adding another 44 articles with the main focus on giving every child the chance to develop to the fullest and to fully participate in family, social and cultural life. Signed by all UN members, it is still in use today.

But unfortunately all over the world generations of young children are getting lost. Children's rights are violated, sometimes in war zones but also in times of peace. With an increasing world population and more children on our planet than ever before it is crucial that all children are treated equally, only then, tomorrow's society will be a better and a happier one for the generations to come.

Sources:

- Milestones: Year by year through UNICEF's history: http://www.unicef.org/about/history/index_milestones.ht
- A Timeline of Children's Rights: <http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/timeline-of-childrens-rights/>.

Austria



Austria signed the Convention in 1990 and the Foreign Ministry officially declares the following:

"The rights of the child have been a longstanding priority of the Austrian human rights policy."

In 1992 the Convention of the Rights of the Child was introduced in Austria with the guarantee children fundamental rights like the right to education or to have a nation prevent them from violations of those rights.

When I read about the Convention I asked myself, how a treaty like this can actually p abuse, like for example in the case of a 3 year old boy named Cain who suffered from violence and was beaten to death by his step-father in 2011. This was a really popular Austria and it was discussed a lot in the media, but there are much more children being mistreated, where nobody knows about it and thus nobody can intervene to help them. The second thing I was thinking about when I read the Convention is how the State of Austria can say that they act according to the Convention in times like these, where of people, and of course among them children, have to flee from their countries because and search for help in Europe. Our refugee camps are overcrowded with people fleeing places where their rights have been violated.

In regard to the war in Syria, Austria's government announced to admit one thousand refugees. Considering that almost twelve million Syrians, among them 5,6 million children desperately need protection, reinforces a reasonable doubt about the sincerity of this "longstanding priority".

Text and Research by Ruth Allgäuer and Haris Huremagić, Austria.

Sources:

- Federal Ministry of the Republic of Austria: <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/human-rights/austrian-human-rights-policy/rights-of-the-child/>
- United Nations Human Rights - Convention of the Rights of the Child: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professional/crc.aspx>
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