

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international convention setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children. Nations that ratify this international convention are bound by it by international law. Compliance is monitored by the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child which is composed of members from countries around the world.

Governments of countries that have ratified the Convention are required to report to, and appear before, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child periodically to be examined on their progress with regards to the advancement of the implementation of the Convention and the status of child rights in their country.

All member nation states of the United Nations, except the United States and Somalia, have ratified it. The United Nations General Assembly agreed to adopt the Convention into international law as an advisory resolution on November 20, 1989; it came into force on September 2, 1990, after it was ratified by the required number of nations. The Convention generally defines a child as any person under the age of 18, unless an earlier age of majority is recognized by a country's law.

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

The Optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict is a protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 May 2000 (resolution A/RES/54/263); it came into force on 12 February 2002.

The protocol requires of ratifying governments to ensure that children under 18 years are not recruited compulsorily into their armed forces. It also calls on ratifying governments to do everything feasible to ensure that members of their armed forces who are under 18 years of age do not take part in hostilities.

Treaty Signatories:

Afghanistan	Dominican Republic	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Rwanda
Andorra	Ecuador	Liechtenstein	San Marino
Angola	Egypt	Lithuania	Senegal
Argentina	El Salvador	Luxembourg	Serbia
Armenia	Eritrea	Madagascar	Seychelles
Australia	Estonia	Malawi	Sierra Leone
Austria	Fiji	Maldives	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Finland	Mali	Slovakia
Bahrain	France	Malta	Slovenia
Bangladesh	Gabon	Mauritius	Somalia
Belarus	Gambia	Mexico	South Africa

Belgium	Germany	Micronesia	Spain
Belize	Ghana	Moldova	Sri Lanka
Benin	Greece	Monaco	Sudan
Bhutan	Guatemala	Mongolia	Suriname
Bolivia	Guinea-Bissau	Montenegro	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Haiti	Morocco	Switzerland
Botswana	Holy See	Mozambique	Syrian Arab Republic
Brazil	Honduras	Namibia	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Hungary	Nauru	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Iceland	Nepal	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Burundi	India	Netherlands	Timor-Leste
Cambodia	Indonesia	New Zealand	Togo
Cameroon	Ireland	Nicaragua	Tunisia
Canada	Israel	Nigeria	Turkey
Cape Verde	Italy	Norway	Turkmenistan
Chad	Jamaica	Oman	Uganda
Chile	Japan	Pakistan	Ukraine
China	Jordan	Panama	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Colombia	Kazakhstan	Paraguay	United Republic of Tanzania
Costa Rica	Kenya	Peru	United States of America
Croatia	Kuwait	Philippines	Uruguay
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Poland	Vanuatu
Czech Republic	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Portugal	Venezuela
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Latvia	Qatar	Viet Nam
Denmark	Lebanon	Republic of Korea	Yemen
Djibouti	Lesotho	Romania	
Dominica	Liberia	Russian Federation	

THE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1948 and came into effect in January 1951. It defines genocide in legal terms. All participating countries are advised to prevent and punish actions of genocide in war and in peacetime. The number of states that have ratified the convention is currently 137.

Article 2 of the Convention defines genocide as

...any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

– *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Article 2*

Article 3 defines the crimes that can be punished under the convention:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
- (d) Attempt to commit genocide;
- (e) Complicity in genocide.

– *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Article 3*

Those charged with any of the crimes stated in Article 3 of the CPPCG can be tried in the International Criminal Court if no reasonable legal action is taken at the national level.

Treaty Signatories:

Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Romania
Albania	Denmark	Latvia	Russian Federation
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Lebanon	Rwanda
Antigua and Barbuda	Ecuador	Lesotho	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Argentina	Egypt	Liberia	Saudi Arabia
Armenia	El Salvador	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Senegal
Australia	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Seychelles
Austria	Ethiopia	Lithuania	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Fiji	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Bahamas	Finland	Malaysia	Slovenia
Bahrain	France	Maldives	South Africa
Bangladesh	Gabon	Mali	Spain
Barbados	Gambia	Mexico	Sri Lanka
Belarus	Georgia	Monaco	Sweden
Belgium	Germany	Mongolia	Switzerland
Belize	Ghana	Morocco	Syrian Arab Republic
Bolivia	Greece	Mozambique	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guatemala	Myanmar	Togo
Brazil	Guinea	Namibia	Tonga
Bulgaria	Haiti	Nepal	Tunisia
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Netherlands	Turkey
Burundi	Hungary	New Zealand	Uganda
Cambodia	Iceland	Nicaragua	Ukraine
Canada	India	Norway	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Chile	Iran	Pakistan	United Republic of Tanzania
China	Iraq	Panama	United States of America
Colombia	Ireland	Papua New	Uruguay

Costa Rica	Israel	Guinea	
Côte d'Ivoire	Italy	Paraguay	Uzbekistan
Croatia	Jamaica	Peru	Venezuela
Cuba	Jordan	Philippines	Vietnam
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Poland	Yemen
Czech Republic	Kuwait	Portugal	Yugoslavia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Korea	Zimbabwe
		Republic of Moldova	

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, also Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT or NNPT) is an international treaty to limit the spread of nuclear weapons, opened for signature on July 1, 1968. There are currently 189 countries party to the treaty, five of which have nuclear weapons: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and the People's Republic of China. Only four nations are not signatories: India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea. A summary of the main articles of the treaty is provided below:

Article I: Each nuclear-weapons state (NWS) undertakes not to transfer, to any recipient, nuclear weapons, or other nuclear explosive devices, and not to assist any non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or acquire such weapons or devices.

Article II: Each non-NWS party undertakes not to receive, from any source, nuclear weapons, or other nuclear explosive devices; not to manufacture or acquire such weapons or devices; and not to receive any assistance in their manufacture.

Article III: Each non-NWS party undertakes to conclude an agreement with the IAEA for the application of its safeguards to all nuclear material in all of the state's peaceful nuclear activities and to prevent diversion of such material to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Article IV:

1. Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty.

2. All the Parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so shall also co-operate in contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

Article VI. The states undertake to pursue “negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”, and towards a “Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”.

Article X. Establishes the right to withdraw from the Treaty giving 3 months' notice. It also establishes the duration of the Treaty (25 years before 1995 Extension Initiative).

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST BAN TREATY

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear explosions in all environments, for military or civilian purposes. The treaty was opened for signature in 1996 and has since been signed by 177 states and ratified by 138. The two main clauses of the treaty are provided below:

1. Each State Party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.
2. Each State Party undertakes, furthermore, to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

The CTBT provides for implementation and verification processes and provisions. Verification is largely carried out by the use of seismological monitoring.

Treaty Signatories:

Afghanistan	Denmark	Lesotho	Russian Federation
Albania	Djibouti	State	Rwanda
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Liberia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Andorra	Ecuador	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Saint Lucia
Angola	Egypt	Liechtenstein	Samoa
Antigua and Barbuda	El Salvador	Lithuania	San Marino
Argentina	Equatorial Guinea	Luxembourg	São Tomé and Príncipe
Armenia	Eritrea	Madagascar	Senegal
Australia	Estonia	Malawi	Serbia
Austria	Ethiopia	Malaysia	Seychelles
Azerbaijan	Fiji	Maldives	Sierra Leone
Bahamas	Finland	Mali	Singapore
Bahrain	France	Malta	Slovakia
Bangladesh	Gabon	Marshall Islands	Slovenia
Barbados	Gambia	Mauritania	Solomon Islands
Belarus	Georgia	Mexico	South Africa
Belgium	Germany	Micronesia, Federated States of	Spain

Belize	Ghana	Moldova	Sri Lanka
Benin	Greece	Monaco	Sudan
Bolivia	Grenada	Mongolia	Suriname
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guatemala	Montenegro	Swaziland
Botswana	Guinea	Morocco	Sweden
Brazil	Guinea-Bissau	Mozambique	Switzerland
Brunei Darussalam	Guyana	Myanmar	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Haiti	Namibia	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Holy See	Nauru	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Burundi	Honduras	Nepal	Togo
Cambodia	Hungary	Netherlands	Tunisia
Cameroon	Iceland	New Zealand	Turkey
Canada	Indonesia	Nicaragua	Turkmenistan
Cape Verde	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Niger	Uganda
Central African Republic	Ireland	Nigeria	Ukraine
Chad	Israel	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Chile	Italy	Oman	United Kingdom
China	Jamaica	Palau	United Republic of Tanzania
Colombia	Japan	Panama	United States of America
Comoros	Jordan	Papua New Guinea	Uruguay
Congo	Kazakhstan	Paraguay	Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Peru	Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Philippines	Venezuela
Cote d'Ivoire	Kuwait	Poland	Viet Nam
Croatia	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal	Yemen
Cyprus	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Qatar	Zambia
Czech Republic	Latvia	Republic of Korea	Zimbabwe
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lebanon	Romania	

OTTAWA TREATY (MINE BAN TREATY)

The Ottawa Treaty or the Mine Ban Treaty, formally the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, bans completely all anti-personnel landmines. The Treaty has been signed/accessioned by 158 countries. Thirty-seven states, including the People's Republic of China, India, Russia and the United States, are not party to the Convention.

Besides stopping the production and development of anti-personnel mines, a party to the treaty must destroy all the anti-personnel mines in its possession within four years. Just a small number of mines is allowed to remain for training (mine-clearance, -detection, etc.). Within ten years after signing the treaty, the country should have cleared all of its mined areas. Countries may request extensions and/or help with this task at annual meetings of the Convention.

Only anti-personnel mines are covered. Mixed mines, anti-tank mines, remote controlled claymore mines, anti-handling devices (booby-traps) and other “static” explosive devices against persons are not within the treaty.

Treaty Signatories:

Afghanistan	Croatia	Kuwait	Rwanada
Albania	Cyprus	Latvia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Algeria	Czech Republic	Lesotho	Saint Lucia
Andorra	Denmark	Liberia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Angola	Djibouti	Liechtenstein	Samoa
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Lithuania	San Marino
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Luxembourg	Sao Tome e Principe
Australia	Ecuador	Macedonia	Senegal
Austria	El Salvador	Madagascar	Serbia
Bahamas	Equatorial Guinea	Malawi	Seychelles
Bangladesh	Eritrea	Malaysia	Sierra Leone
Barbados	Estonia	Maldives	Slovak Republic
Belarus	Ethiopia	Mali	Slovenia
Belgium	Fiji	Malta	Solomon Islands
Belize	France	Mauritania	South Africa
Benin	Gabon	Mauritius	Spain
Bhutan	Gambia	Mexico	Sudan
Bolivia	Germany	Moldova	Suriname
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ghana	Monaco	Swaziland
Botswana	Greece	Montenegro	Sweden
Brazil	Grenada	Mozambique	Switzerland
Brunei Darussalem	Guatemala	Namibia	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Guinea	Nauru	Tanzania
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Netherlands	Thailand
Burundi	Guyana	New Zealand	Timor-Leste
Cambodia	Haiti	Nicaragua	Togo
Cameroon	Holy See	Niger	Trinidad and Tobago
Canada	Honduras	Nigeria	Tunisia
Cape Verde	Hungary	Niue	Turkey
Central African Republic	Iceland	Norway	Turkmenistan
chad	Indonesia	Palau	Uganda
chile	Iraq	Panama	Ukraine
Colombia	Ireland	Papua New Guinea	United Kingdom
Comoros	Italy	Paraguay	Uruguay
Congo	Jamaica	Peru	Vanuatu
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Japan	Philippines	Venezuela
Cook Islands	Jordon	Portugal	Yemen
Costa Rica	Kenya	Qatar	Zambia
Cote d'Ivoire	Kiribati	Romania	Zimbabwe