

Rights in Your Pocket:

Children's Rights



Jiyan Foundation
for Human Rights

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights

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Dear Reader,

The Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights has been assisting survivors of human rights violations in Iraq since 2005. With this booklet we want to help you protect yourself and your family before you become victims.

We have prepared three brochures to put your human rights in your pocket and in your hand at any time you need them: One for all humans, one for women, and one for children. Each of these booklets summarizes and explains your most fundamental rights.

By reading and carrying these books you can protect yourself and others in situations of need. Often it is enough to show

people that you know your rights to stop them from harming you. That is exactly what we at the Jiyan Foundation want to achieve:

To make you and all other members of our society aware of the human rights we all share. Only if we know our rights, can we claim them. Let us start together by reading a book.

Salah Ahmad

President of the Jiyan Foundation

Dear Reader,

This is a book with a purpose. A book that does not signify its importance by its size or author, but by its contents and use. The book contains a human's most basic rights, and in the case of women and children, those rights which are special to them because of their increased vulnerability.

I know about the power of these rights because I applied them. I also know that it is important you do not only rely on others but know how to protect yourself. That way wrongs can be stopped before they occur.

All too often people's rights are abused because the perpetrator knows that his victims

are unaware of their legal protection. This book can stop that. Carry it with you and use it to prevent and challenge the abuse of your rights.

Your rights now literally lie in your hands. Should you, however, encounter situations where you feel helpless, I am confident that you will find a strong and supportive partner in the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights.

Rizgar Mohammed Amin
Former Chief Judge, Iraqi Special Tribunal

List of abbreviations

CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child

Draft CoK: Draft Constitution of Kurdistan Region – Iraq

ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Law No. 8: The Law on Domestic Violence, Act No. 8 of 2011

UDHR: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Definition

A child is everyone under the age of 18.

Art. 1 CRC

Protection

Every child has the right to be protected as necessary for a minor.

Art. 24.1 ICCPR

All violence against children is prohibited: This includes beating or other physical violence, psychological or sexual abuse and female genital mutilation.

Art. 2.1 – 2.2 Law No. 8

The government must do whatever it can to protect children from violence, neglect, sexual or other exploitation and physical and mental abuse, especially from the people in whose care they are.

Art. 2.1 Law No. 8; Art. 19 + 34 + 36 CRC

Making children work to earn money or exploiting them to one's own or a company or organization's benefit is not allowed.

Art. 2.1.9 Law No. 8; Art. 27.3 Draft CoK;
Art. 32 + 36 CRC

Marrying children to adults or one another, or promising them into wedlock, no matter whether male or female, is not allowed.

Art. 2.1.2 Law No. 8; Art. 24.3 CRC;
Art. 23.2 ICCPR

The government must take care of youth welfare and the development of youth so that they can participate in society.

Art. 19.13 Draft CoK

Children who are refugees must have all their human rights protected the same way as non-refugee children.

Art. 22 CRC

Children must be protected in war and must not be recruited into the army below the age of 15.

Art. 38 CRC

Children who have suffered any form of abuse, violence or other human rights violations should be provided with help from the state to recover physically, psychologically and socially.

Art. 39 CRC

Identity and Equality

A child has the right to name and nationality.

Art. 7 + 8 CRC; Art. 24.2 – 24.3 ICCPR

No difference should be made between children because of the origin, ethnicity or physical or mental characteristics of their parents or their own.

Art. 2 CRC; Art. 24 ICCPR; Art. 25 UDHR

Children have the right to give their own opinion on all issues that concern their own lives, because their dignity is equal to that of adults.

Art. 12 CRC

Development and Education

Children have the right to life and development as full as possible, meaning also their emotional and mental development.

Art. 6 CRC

Children have the right to a standard of living, including clothing, housing and food, which is necessary for their healthy and full development.

Art. 27 CRC

All children have the right to education. The attendance of primary school is

compulsory and must be free of charge to anyone.

Art. 28 CRC

All children must be allowed to play and rest and take part in cultural activities.

Art. 31 CRC

Children and Parents

Children must not be separated from their parents, unless they are separated from them by law because of the child's security.

Art. 9 CRC

If the parents of a child separate, the child has the right to regularly stay in contact with both parents.

Art. 9 CRC

A child must be heard in court where the issue affects its future, such as for example

with whom it will live after the separation of its parents.

Art. 12 CRC

The government must ensure that children who have lost their parents or cannot be cared for by their parents have someone else who cares for them.

Art. 20 CRC

The state and the United Nations must assist children who are refugees and have lost contact with their parents in finding and reuniting with them.

Art. 22.2 CRC

Seek Help

We hope to have given you encouragement to defend your rights. But we also know that you might not be able to do so in some situations. If you feel that one of your rights has been violated and you cannot stand up for yourself, **we will listen to you, back you up, and help you to react.**

All our services are free of charge and we will treat your problems with confidentiality. Our multi-professional team has long lasting experience in assisting survivors of human rights violations!

Contact Us

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Duhok: 0750 73 75 111

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