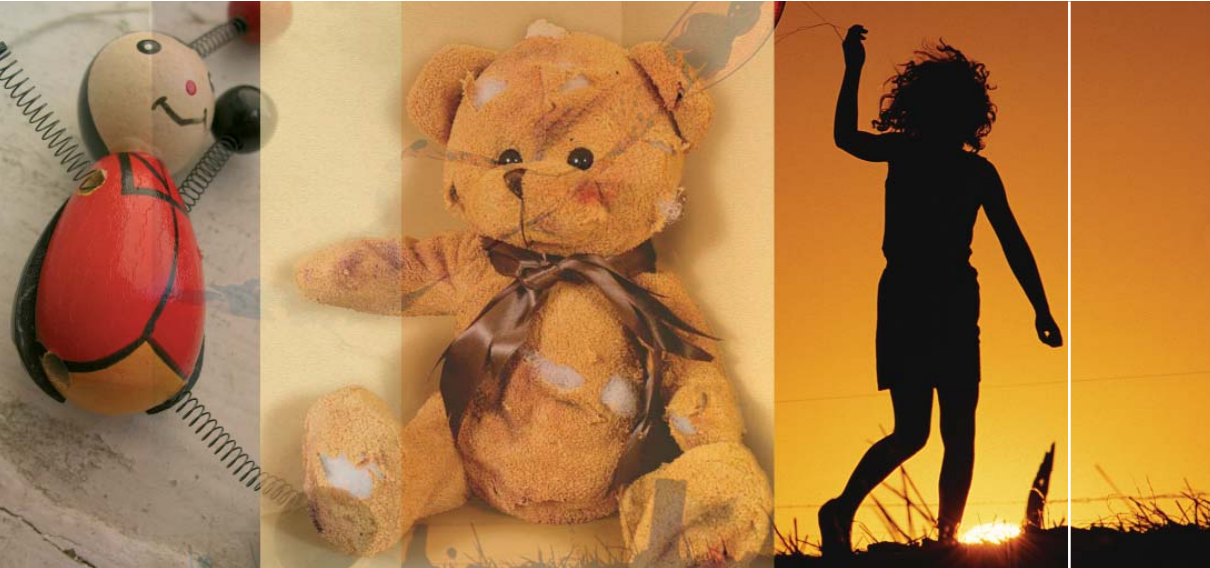




UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*



United Nations Guidelines on  
**Justice in matters  
involving child  
victims** and witnesses  
of crime

CHILD-FRIENDLY VERSION

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For the official version of the UN Guidelines see Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20 of 22 July 2005. This child-friendly version, which has been produced by UNICEF and UNODC with the support of the Innocenti Research Centre and IBCR, is meant as guidance for children and child professionals and is not an official UN document.

# Getting started



These guidelines were created to help make sure that children who have been harmed by crime and children who have seen others harmed are protected and treated fairly when they say what happened to them in a court of law.

Laws are rules that everyone should follow so that people can respect each other and live together safely. A crime is committed when someone breaks the law.

When a person is accused of breaking the law, they are brought to a court of law to explain what happened. Others will also be asked to come and tell their side of the story. The people in the court will listen to everyone and then decide if the law was broken and what to do about it. They also will decide how best to help the people who were harmed.

Children who have been harmed or have seen others harmed by crime may be asked to say what happened and what they remember. In this way, they can help to protect other children from harm. When a child says what happened in a court of law, the record of what they say is called their testimony.

Sometimes children who are asked to go to court are frightened or worried because they think their testimony might cause the person accused of breaking the law to be punished. The person accused may be someone they know or care about. It is important for children to remember that by telling the truth about what happened they can help protect others and make the world a safer place.



*When people have committed crimes, they can be brought to a court of law in order to be judged.*

*If you have seen someone committing a crime, then it is important that you tell the court what happened, so that those who are responsible are punished and those who are innocent are released.*

## About this document



This document is called “Guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime.” Guidelines are official advice and explain what should be done and how people should act in certain situations.

These guidelines were created to help make sure that children who have been harmed by crime and children who have seen others harmed are protected and treated fairly when they tell their stories in a court of law. The document will also help protect children when they talk to the police, lawyers, social workers and anyone else they meet before and after they go to court.

A **crime** is an act that breaks the law. This can also include not doing what the law requires.

A **victim** is someone who has suffered harm or has been hurt by someone who has broken the law.

A **witness** is someone who goes to court to say what they know or saw happened.

When a person goes to a court of law to tell the truth about what happened, that person **testifies** before the court. Everything said in court is written down so that no one forgets and this written record is called **testimony**.

People from many different countries around the world worked together to develop these guidelines. They looked at good actions and laws that were already protecting and helping child victims and witnesses of crime. They also thought about the promises countries had made in order to protect children from harm. In 2005, the guidelines were adopted by the United Nations. They are to be used by governments and by everyone who works with children who have been harmed by crime or have seen others harmed.

At the end of this document, you will find a list of words and their meanings. It will help you to understand words that may be new to you.



*Don't be ashamed if you feel frightened before going to court. This is natural.*

*The present document, which is called "Guidelines", is precisely aimed at making sure that your experience before the court goes as smoothly as possible and that you are provided with everything you may need during this process.*

## Guidelines



Countries around the world have agreed that people should be treated fairly and live together in freedom and in peace. This is based on the idea that every person has equal “rights” and that the rights of each person should be recognized and respected by everyone. All children have the same rights and they are recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. These rights are intended to make sure that children have what they need to grow, develop and learn in safety and in good health, to become full members of their community. All these rights are important and need to be respected at all times.

These guidelines help make sure that the laws and rules in a country fully protect the rights of child victims and witnesses of crime.

*As a child, you have rights.*

*Your rights are written in a treaty which has been adopted by the United Nations.*

## What are your rights?

**You have the right to be treated with dignity and compassion.** This means that people should always show you respect and understanding.



1. Child victims and witnesses should be treated in a caring and sensitive way throughout the justice process.
2. Every child should be treated as an individual with his or her own needs, wishes and feelings.

*The goal of the justice process is always to be fair.*

*The justice process involves many steps to repair the harm that was caused by someone who breaks the law. It begins when the police, or other people, who make sure laws are obeyed, discover that the law was broken. This is usually followed by an investigation to collect evidence. If there is a trial, that comes next. Finally, decisions are made about what can be done to help repair the harm that was caused.*



3. People who investigate a crime should spend only the amount of time with the child that is necessary to find out what happened.
4. People who interview a child victim or witness should be specially trained so that they ask questions correctly and in a respectful way. They should think about what the child needs, and treat the child fairly and respectfully.
5. Everyone who has contact with a child victim or witness should consider the child's needs, thoughts and feelings. They should talk to the child in a place where the child feels comfortable and safe. They should talk in a language that the child uses and understands.



*People involved in the justice process—policemen, judges, etc.—should behave nicely.*

*When you meet these people, you can tell them if you don't feel good—for whatever reason—or if there is something you need in particular. They should do everything they can to help you and if they can't, they should tell you why.*

*When they interview you and you don't understand what they say, ask them to explain. When you feel tired or upset, just say so.*

**You have the right to be protected from discrimination.** This means you have a right to be treated fairly. Every child in the world looks different and has different ideas and traditions. These differences are like a rainbow where each colour brings a special beauty into the world and makes the world more interesting. It is important that differences among people are always respected, including differences in age, education and family background.

1. Child victims and witnesses should be treated fairly and equally no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think or say, whether they are boys or girls, rich or poor. This includes migrants and refugees and children who are sick, can't hear or speak, or use a wheelchair or crutches.
2. Some children need special help and protection because of the way they have been harmed. This might be so if children have been sexually assaulted. Also, girls and boys may need different things. Special help and protection should be offered to these children.
3. Children of all ages have a right to take a full part in the justice process, unless it is not in their best interest. When a child is a witness, the child's testimony should be respected as true unless it is proved not to be true, and as

long as the child understands the questions and has answered without help. The child should not suffer harm or be put at risk because of taking part in this process.

*All children have the same rights, no matter what their race, colour, sex, language, religion, origin, property, disability, birth, status or that of their parents.*

**You have the right to be informed.** This means you have a right to be told and to know what is happening and to ask questions if you do not understand.

1. From their first contact with the justice system and throughout the justice process, child victims and witnesses, their families and the people who defend them have the right to be given the following information as soon as possible:
  - They have a right to be told what kinds of health, psychological and other services are available to help them, and how to use these services. They also have a right to know how to get other types of advice or help. Depending on the situation, they may have a right to financial help for the harm caused or to get emergency money to help them meet their immediate needs.

- They have a right to be told what will happen at all stages of the justice process. Children should be told what is expected of them when they testify, why their testimony is important, when it will happen, and how. They should be told how it will help to find out what happened. They should also be told about the different ways they might be questioned during the investigation and trial.

- They have a right to be told when and where hearings and other important events will take place;

- They have a right to be told what rights child victims and witnesses have as explained by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, and how these rights will be protected;

- They have a right to be told what is happening to the person suspected of breaking the law, who is also called the accused. This includes being told if the “accused” has been captured or arrested, where the accused is being held and for how long, and what will happen to the accused after the trial;

- They have a right to be told whether it is possible to receive compensation to help recover from the harm that was done, either from the person who has broken the law or from the government, and when this is possible, how to receive it.

*Do not hesitate to ask anything you want to know about the justice process and how people can help you during the justice process.*

*Also, remember that you must always tell the truth to the people involved in the justice process. If, for whatever reasons, you feel frightened about telling the truth, remember that policemen, judges and other people involved in the justice process are there to help you and, if necessary, to protect you.*

**You have the right to be heard and to express views and concerns.** This means you have a right to give your opinion, to be listened to and taken seriously. All children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions about their lives. This includes decisions made in a legal process. As children grow, they will have more responsibility to make choices that affect their lives.

- 1.** Professionals and other people in the justice system should make every effort to allow child victims and witnesses to express themselves freely and in their own way about what they think and feel by:

- Making sure that child victims and witnesses are able to talk about their worries and fears about taking part in the justice process. Children should be allowed to decide how they give their testimony and encouraged to talk about their feelings after the trial is over;
- Making sure that adults take the worries, fears and opinions of children seriously. When it is not possible to do something the child has asked, it is important to explain, so that the child understands why.



*People involved in the justice process—such as policemen or judges—are interested in what you want to tell them.*

*Do not hesitate or feel stupid because you can't find your words or you don't know how to explain what you have to say. Just help them to understand that you have something to say, and they will help you.*

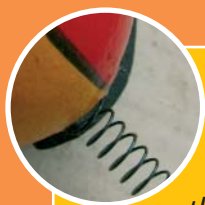
*If you want to speak to someone in particular and you don't want other people to hear what you say, you can ask to speak to this person in private, without other people there.*

**You have the right to effective assistance.**  
This means you have a right to get help.

1. Child victims and witnesses and, when needed, family members should be able to get help from trained professionals, such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, police, social workers and anyone else who works with child victims and witnesses of crime.
2. Help may be given as legal help, health care, social or educational services or as money. It can include medical and psychological services that can help children if they have been hurt or suffered harm. It includes any services that children may need to help them recover and feel safe.
3. Professionals should make every effort to work together when they help child victims and witnesses so that children don't have to spend more time in the justice process than is necessary.
4. Child victims and witnesses should receive help from specialists trained to help them. The job of these specialists is to explain to children what will happen at each step of the justice process and what it expects from them. These specialists also explain to children and their families where to go for different kinds of support.

5. Professionals should develop ways to help children testify or give evidence more easily. This may include:

- Making sure that child victim and witness specialists are available to help children who may have special needs;
- Making sure that specialists or close family members are with the child during his or her testimony whenever needed, as long as it's in the child's best interests;
- Making sure that an adult is appointed by the court to be the child's "legal guardian." This may be necessary if a child's parent or the person who is responsible for that child is not available to make decisions that are in the best interests of the child.



*If you are frightened by the people who are interviewing you or if you feel uneasy, then ask to speak to a person involved in the justice process that you can trust and who is kind to you.*

*Do not hesitate to ask for anything you may need during the justice process. If your needs cannot be fulfilled, people should explain why and should always do their best to find a solution and improve your situation.*



**You have the right to privacy.** This means you have a right to keep your personal information to yourself. It means other things too.

*The right to privacy means that you have a right to:*

- *keep your personal information to yourself*
- *keep your identity private in certain situations*
- *live your life without being watched by other people*
- *talk to people you want to talk to without others listening*
- *be left alone*

1. It is very important that all child victims and witnesses have their privacy protected.
2. When a child is involved in the justice process, nobody except people who the child trusts has the right to know the child is involved. Adults should keep the child's name private and not give any information that would identify the child.
3. To protect the child, the public and the media should be kept out of the courtroom during a child's testimony.



*Your participation in the justice process is private: nobody but the people involved in the justice process should know about it.*

*When you speak in the courtroom, the judge should stop the public and journalists from attending.*

**You have the right to be protected from hardship during the justice process.** This means you have a right to be protected from being treated badly from the moment a crime has been discovered, and all through the investigation of that crime and the trial.

1. Professionals should always be understanding and kind. They should also:
  - Stay with child victims and witnesses through all stages of the justice process, providing help and support to the child;
  - Make sure that when the child is expected to attend hearings and trials these are planned ahead of time so the child has time to prepare. Child victims and witnesses should meet with the same professionals to receive help all through the process;

- Make sure that the trial is completed in as short a time as possible, unless a delay is in the child's best interest. Investigations involving children should be conducted as quickly as possible and there should be laws or court rules to make sure that cases involving children are heard first. A child should be asked to come to court only when necessary;
- Make sure that children are questioned in special rooms where they can feel comfortable and safe. Courtrooms should also be set up to make children feel at ease. Children should be able to take breaks during their testimony, and hearings should be scheduled during the time of day that is best for the age and maturity of the child. Everything possible should be done to make it easier for the child to testify;
- Limit the number of times a child is questioned, gives a statement about what happened, and attends a hearing. One way to do this is by filming what the child says on video, so that he or she does not have to be present in the court room;
- Make sure the child has no contact with the accused (also known as the "alleged perpetrator") except when absolutely necessary. When children are questioned in court, it should always be out of sight of the accused. A child should never be questioned by the

accused. Separate waiting rooms and private interview areas should be available for children who testify;

- Make sure, with help from the judge, that children are questioned in court in a way that they understand and that does not frighten them.



*People should do their best to make the justice process as short as possible and to limit the disturbances you may experience from it.*

*If you don't want to see the person who has committed a crime, then say so and people will make sure that you have no more contacts than necessary with him or her. They will make sure you are well protected every time you meet, so that he or she cannot harm or frighten you.*

**You have the right to safety.** This means you have a right to feel secure and not be harmed.

1. When there is a chance that a child victim or witness may be harmed, it is very important that authorities are told about the possible dangers. Authorities are people who have the power to make sure that rules are followed.

They may be police officers or other adults who can provide protection. It is important to protect the child from any possible danger before, during and after the justice process.

2. Professionals who come into contact with children should be required to tell authorities if they suspect that a child victim or witness has been harmed or may be harmed. This is part of their job.

3. Professionals should be trained to stop people from attempting to intimidate, threaten or harm child victims and witnesses. People are intimidated when they are fearful that someone may force them to do or say something against their will. They may be threatened by someone who tells them something bad will happen if they refuse to do what the person says. If there is any possibility that a child victim or witness may be intimidated, threatened or harmed, steps must be taken to make sure that the child is kept safe.

Here are some steps that can be taken to keep child victims and witnesses safe:

- Make sure that the child does not have to meet the person accused of breaking the law, except when absolutely necessary;

- Make sure that anyone who may harm the child is forced to stay away from the child by court papers called “restraining orders.” The name of the person who is required to stay away should also be put on an official list so that police officers and everyone else in the justice process know that the court has ordered that person to stay away from the child;
- If the person accused is threatening the child then they should be kept in jail until the trial begins or kept away from the child through special “no contact” bail conditions. Bail is an amount of money that the accused must pay to stay out of jail before and during the trial. When the accused appears for the trial, this money is returned. But if the accused does not appear for the trial, then the court keeps the money. A “no contact” bail means that the person accused is allowed to stay out of jail only by paying the bail money AND on the condition that the accused has no contact with the child victim or witness. Someone accused of a crime is not always allowed to stay out of jail on bail, especially if the crime he or she is accused of is very serious;
- Another step that can be taken to protect the child is to place the accused person under house arrest. House arrest means that the accused is not allowed to leave his or her house until the trial;

- Police and other protection officials or agencies can be asked to protect the child victim or witness whenever necessary;
- Another important way to protect child victims and witnesses is to keep them in a safe place and to keep that place a secret.

*People involved in the justice process—such as policemen or judges—shall do their best to protect you, if necessary.*

*Judges may forbid people who may harm you from approaching you. If you see someone you know is forbidden to meet you, then report this immediately to someone involved in the justice process. He or she will protect you and make sure that this person stays away in the future.*

*If you feel you may be in danger, then tell someone involved in the justice process you trust. He or she will do his or her best to protect you, or will reassure you if there is no threat.*

**You have the right to reparation.** This means you have a right to receive compensation to help make up for being hurt, to help you recover.



### *What is reparation?*

*Reparation is given to repair a wrong and to help people recover. Reparation can be given as money or as medical care or other health and social support. When people show respect for the victim and recognize the harm that was suffered, this is also a form of reparation.*

1. Child victims should, whenever possible, receive reparation to help them recover from the harm they have suffered. Reparation is an official recognition of the harm that child victims have suffered. Reparation helps child victims recover their health and well-being. It can also help children to start a new life. Steps should be taken to make sure that child victims are able to apply for and receive reparation.
2. Whenever possible, the decision to provide reparation should happen at the time of the trial, as long as the child is protected and his or her needs and views are considered. Other types of informal and community justice procedures, such as restorative justice, should be encouraged. Restorative justice focuses on repairing the harm caused by a criminal act and not on punishment.



3. Reparation can come from different places and in different ways. The person who has been found guilty of breaking the law can be required to provide reparation to the victim. Reparation can also come from the government through programmes that help victims of crime. Whenever possible, reparation should pay for the cost of social reintegration, medical treatment, mental health care and legal services. Rules should be in place to make sure that victims receive reparation.

*If you suffered as a result of a crime, because you or your loved ones were harmed, then judges may decide, if possible, to grant you reparation to help you to recover. The reparation can be, for example, an amount of money, medical care or social support.*

**You have the right to special preventive measures.** This means you have a right to be protected from further harm.

1. Rules exist to protect the rights of all children and to prevent them from being hurt and from suffering any harm. But adults should take extra steps to make sure child victims and witnesses are protected.

2. When there is a risk that a child victim may be harmed, special actions need to be taken to protect the child. Specific actions will be needed to protect children who have been hurt in their homes, children who have been used for sex, children who have suffered harm while living in institutions and children who have been moved from one country to another for purposes of work, sex or other abuse.



*People will also try to make sure that, after the justice process, crimes never happen again. In particular, if you were a victim of a crime—which means that you were directly harmed—people will take specific measures to ensure that what happened to you will not happen again.*

## How your rights become real in your daily life

1. Professionals working with child victims and witnesses should be trained in how to protect and meet the needs of child victims and witnesses. They should be provided with all the latest information and training so that they can continuously improve their work.



2. Professionals should receive training:

- To learn about human rights, especially the rights of the child. This includes the understanding that child victims and witnesses are not all the same and have different needs;
- To learn the correct way to behave when working with children and how to explain their work to children;
- To recognize when a child is in danger or has suffered harm by identifying marks or injuries or by noticing the way a child is behaving, that may reveal the child has been hurt or is threatened;

- To know when to take immediate action to help a child, and where to take the child for help, always making sure the child's privacy is protected;
- To learn how to speak to children of all ages so that children feel comfortable and understand what is going on. This includes listening to children and helping to reassure them if they are confused or afraid;
- To learn ways of questioning children that will not frighten or harm them but will help to reveal the truth;
- To learn about the different roles and jobs of professionals working with child victims and witnesses;
- Professionals should make every effort to work together, each contributing what they can to make sure that child victims and witnesses receive the best possible care and protection. It may be necessary to create rules to make sure everyone does job their well;
- All countries should share important information and work together to find out about, investigate and take legal action against adults who travel to different countries to harm children;

- Professionals should use these guidelines to develop laws and other rules to help child victims and witnesses involved in the justice process;
- Professionals should think about whether the job they are doing is really helping children and whether other agencies in the justice process are also doing their jobs well. They should always ask themselves how they can do a better job to protect child victims and witnesses so that these guidelines can make a real difference in the lives of all children.

*Participation in the justice process should not be frightening.*

*The United Nations Guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime are here to help make sure that you receive all the help and protection you may need during this process.*

## Words you may not understand



**(the) Accused:** When there are strong reasons to believe that someone has broken the law, that person is called the accused. The court decides whether the accused actually broke the law and, if so, what steps can be taken to repair the harm caused and prevent further harm.

**Alleged perpetrator:** The person who is accused of having committed a crime.

**Best interests of the child:** Anything anyone does that affects children should be good for them and help to fulfill their hopes and dreams for the future. When adults make decisions they should think about how their decisions will affect children. This includes making sure children are protected from violence, abuse and neglect from the moment they are born. It also includes making sure children are properly cared for and that they have clean water, nutritious food, a clean environment, and are supported so that they can be healthy and feel good as they grow into adults. When a child becomes involved in a court of law as a victim or witness, the child's interests should come first. In all

cases when children are involved, they should be protected from further harm and helped to participate so that their opinions and views will be considered and respected.

**Child:** A child is any person below 18 years of age.

### **Convention on the Rights of the Child:**

A convention is an agreement between countries. Conventions are sometimes called treaties or covenants or international agreements or legal instruments. The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the rights of all children. These rights are intended to make sure that children have what they need to grow, develop and learn in safety and in good health and to become full members of their community. By signing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, countries make a promise to treat all children everywhere with respect and to protect their rights. The Convention is the most widely accepted human rights treaty in history and has been approved or “ratified” by every country in the world except two.

**Child victim:** Someone under the age of 18 who has suffered harm when the law was broken. All children have the same rights to be protected, no matter what role they may have had in the crime or in the trial of the accused.

**Child witness:** Someone under the age of 18 who saw or heard what happened or knows something that can help to explain the truth about what happened when the law was broken.

**Compensation:** Money or something else that is given to someone to make up for harm that they have suffered.

**Court of law:** When someone is accused of breaking the law, that person is brought to a special place called a court of law and must explain what happened. Others will also be asked to come and tell their version of the story. The people of the court will listen to everyone, make clear what the law says, and then decide if the law was broken and what to do about it.

**Crime:** A crime is committed when someone breaks the law.

**Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power:** This Declaration was adopted in 1985 by the United Nations to protect the rights of all people who have been victims of crime and who have been harmed by people who have broken the law. The Declaration says that countries should make sure all victims of crime are treated fairly



and get the help they need to heal and recover from the harm they have suffered.

**Discrimination:** Everyone in the world looks different and has different ideas and traditions. When people are not treated fairly because of these differences, they experience discrimination. It is important that people's differences are always respected. This is true for boys and girls, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think or say, what their sexual orientation is, or whether they are rich or poor.

**Evidence:** Information or objects that are used to help prove the guilt or innocence of someone accused of a crime.

**Guardian or legal guardian:** An adult who is responsible for the care and well-being of a child when the child does not have parents.

**Guilty:** When someone breaks the law, that person is guilty of the crime.

**Hearings:** The session during which the accused, victims and witnesses tell their story as they remember it. During a hearing, witnesses are questioned about what happened and asked to explain what they saw and what they did.

**Innocent:** Someone who has not broken the law is innocent of the crime.

**Interview:** A meeting between at least two people, where one person asks the other person questions.

**Investigate:** To look carefully at all the facts in order to find out what happened and why and who is responsible. Specially trained people investigate crimes by asking questions and looking for clues and evidence.

**Judge:** The person who makes sure that the law is respected, and the truth is made clear, and that everyone follows the rules in court.

**Jury:** The people who listen to everything that takes place in a court of law and then decide if the law was broken and who is responsible.

**Justice or justice process:** Justice is fairness for all. The justice process includes many people working together to uphold fairness, while respecting the equal rights of all people.

**Law:** Laws are rules that everyone has to follow so that people can respect each other, respect the equal rights of all and live together safely. There are many different kinds of laws. Together they help people do what is right.

**Lawyer (counsel):** A lawyer—or a counsel—is a person who helps someone in the justice system and makes sure that the justice process is fair and follows the law. The person who is accused is helped by lawyers who are called the “defence counsel”. Victims may also, in some cases, be helped by a lawyer. If you are helped by a lawyer, he or she is the one most concerned about your protection and the respect of your rights. If there is something you don’t understand or if you feel that something is going wrong, you can speak to your lawyer who will explain what happens and do what is possible to help. If you tell your lawyer something then he or she must keep what you say secret and must not repeat it to anybody, not even to your parents, without your permission.

**Legal process or action:** Acts that help to ensure respect for the law.

**Media:** People who provide information to the public through their work in television or radio or with newspapers, magazines or the Internet. The media report on what happens in their communities and in the rest of the world.

**Mental health care:** Care and support provided to people who are very upset or harmed by what they have experienced.

**Migrant:** Someone who has moved from one place to another. Often this is in search of work and a better life.

**Participate:** To participate means to take part in something, to join in and be heard.

**Psychological and other services:** Care and support provided to help people who are upset or need special attention to recover from what they have experienced.

**Professional:** A person who has special training to do their job, such as a lawyer, health worker or teacher.

**Prosecutor:** A prosecutor is the person in charge of presenting evidence that the law has been broken and that the accused is the person responsible. During the justice process, he or she is opposed to the defence lawyer, who is in charge of presenting evidence that the law was not broken or that the accused is not responsible. He or she represents society in a court.

**Reparation:** Compensation given to a person who was harmed to help them recover.

**Refugee:** Someone who has left his or her country in search of safety. A refugee may be someone who is escaping from people who do

not respect his or her rights during a time of hardship or war.

**Restraining order:** When the court gives an order to someone to stay away from another person or place.

**Rights or human rights:** Every child has equal “rights” before the law. These rights are stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They include the right to be alive and to be respected as a human being; the right to survive; the right to health care; the right to go to school; the right to be protected from violence, abuse and exploitation; the right to a live in a family or with family care; the right to say what you think freely; and the right to join fully in family, cultural and social life. All children have the same rights no matter where they live.

**Sexual assault or abuse:** Child sexual assault happens when someone forces a child or convinces the child to take part in sexual acts. Child sexual assault includes touching the child’s body in a way that makes the child feel uncomfortable or harmed. Strangers aren’t the only people who sexually assault children. Children may be sexually assaulted or touched in a wrong way by people they know and trust or by someone related to them.

**Social reintegration:** When someone returns to their home or community after hardship.

**Trial:** When someone is accused of committing a crime, the court meets to look at what happened and to hear all the evidence. Then the people of the court decide if the law was broken and what should be done to repair the wrong. This process is called a trial.

**United Nations (U.N.):** The United Nations is an organization formed by the governments of 191 member countries working together to bring peace and justice into the world. The United Nations was created in 1945 to prevent future wars, to protect human rights and to provide a place for all the countries in the world to come together and discuss important questions and problems that affect everyone.





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