

Youth Voice & Defending Human Rights

with:

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6-7:30 p.m. CST



HRE USA

Human Rights Educators USA

A network dedicated to building a culture of human rights

Telling Our Human Rights Educators Story



Communicate and amplify our story and impact as Human Rights Educators USA.

Youth Leadership

Provide youth with human rights education leadership, training, and other opportunities to engage in human rights education initiatives.



Sustainability and Fundraising



Develop and implement comprehensive fundraising and communication plans to ensure long-term organizational sustainability to advance our mission.

Individual and Organizational Leadership

Effectively communicate current priorities and initiatives with the purpose of engaging and attracting an inclusive and diverse leadership.



2024-2026 Priorities

Innovation and Ongoing Learning



Be an original source by increasing online resources, presenting at human rights education-related forums/conferences, hosting webinars, etc.

Membership Capacity and Training

Build members' capacities through training, leadership opportunities, resource-sharing to strengthen human rights education and learning.



Policy and Practice



Influence human rights education policy and practices in the United States.

Internal and External Collaborations

Collaborate with individual and organizational members & partners to strengthen our network and impact.





Workshop Objectives

- Understanding of **youth voice** in the context of human and child rights.
- Understanding of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- Knowledge of youth action/activism **issues and related stakeholders**.
- Understanding of how to access **CRC educational resources**.



Land Acknowledgement

We come to you from the contemporary and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples of central Minnesota, the Naumkeag peoples of Salem, MA, and the Tongva people of Los Angeles, CA. In the chat, we have posted a link to find the native land you are currently located on. **We encourage everyone to take a moment here to find the Native land you are currently on and type it in the chat.**

We would like to acknowledge the sacred lands where we work, live, teach, learn, and build community. We recognize the repeated violations of sovereignty, territory, and water that have impacted the original inhabitants of this land and celebrate the citizens of these Nations who live here today as well as their ancestors who have lived here for hundreds of generations. We recognize that there is much to be done to address the harm inflicted upon these individuals, communities, and lands. **In this spirit, we encourage you to donate to a local Native land tax.**

The First Americans: Location of Major Indian Groups and Culture Areas in the 1600s



Norms

R	RESPONSIBILITY We take charge of our own words, fulfill our obligations, become accountable for our actions, and do not let other people down.
E	EMPATHY We listen deeply to one another's stories and connect to each other's feelings and experiences
S	SHARING AIRTIME We ensure that everyone has an opportunity to tell their story, participate in group tasks and projects, and is included in the discussion.
P	PARTICIPATION We cooperate with others successfully in group and interact harmoniously. We share, join, and work with others to make decisions and complete tasks and projects.
E	ENTHUSIASM We bring our energy, optimism, and creativity to encourage ourselves and others to be our best and build a positive learning community.
C	COMMUNICATION We commit to use our words clearly, positively, and respectfully, to have the courage to ask challenging questions, and to seek understanding of others' points of view.
T	TRUST We commit to be honest in sharing our feelings, emotions, thoughts and reactions with others, and have the confidence in others to be supportive encouraging.

Reminders



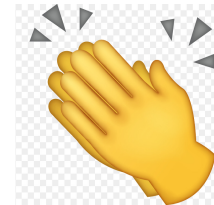
Please mute
mic when not
speaking.



Cameras on are
encouraged.



Use the chat to
ask questions
and make
comments.



Use the
reactions
emojis when
your spirit
moves you.

Warmup Question

Let's see who we have in the audience. Raise your hand if you are in elementary ed? Middle Schools? High Schools? Higher Ed? Nonprofit?

First 42 seconds of video https://youtu.be/6XXGF_V8_7M





What is the CRC?

CRC Intro Video



CRC: Principles and Features

Four Core Principles

- Non-discrimination
- Devotion to the best interests of the child
- The right to survival and development
- The views of the child



Notable Features

Children have a right to know their rights (Art. 42)

Children have a right to voice their opinions and be heard (Art. 12/13)

Children have the right to health, water, food and education (Art. 24/28)

The 3 Ps of Children's Human Rights

Provision

Protection

Participation



CRC: Key Dates

1946: UNICEF founded

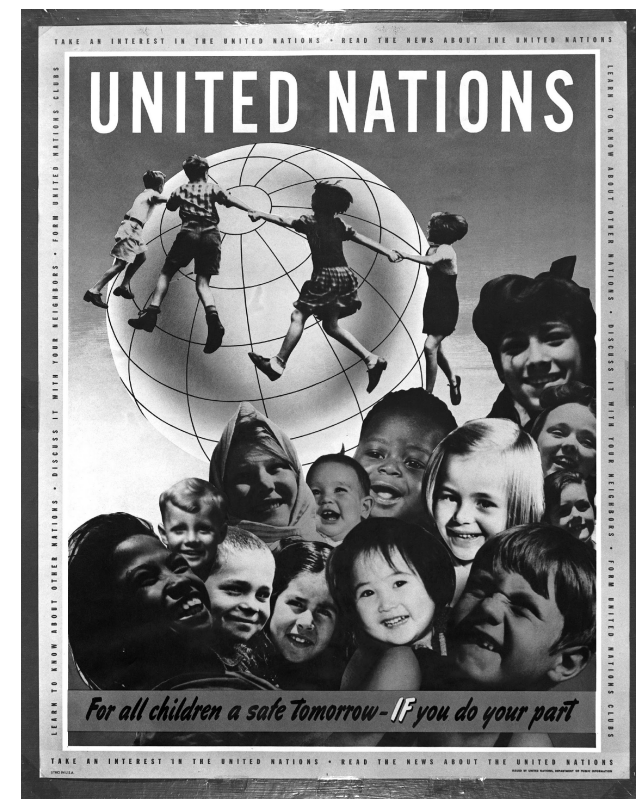
1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) passed by the UN

1959: UN adopts the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*

1989: UN adopts the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*

1995: U.S. becomes a signatory of the CRC

2003: U.S. ratified 2 of 3 Optional Protocols to CRC on children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

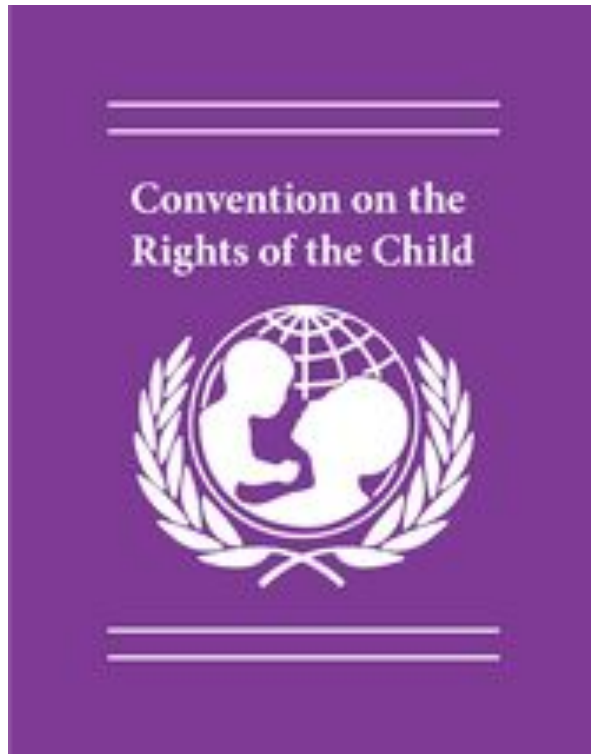


Why hasn't the U.S. ratified the CRC?

196 nations have – US is the only UN nation that has not!

- Lack of education and awareness – people don't know what it is or why it's important!
- Political infighting – signed but not ratified or implemented
- Children seen as property or objects, not rights holders
- Challenged as “anti-family” – but it's not!
- U.S. falling behind on many child wellbeing metrics
 - Children still sentenced to life without parole
 - 20% of children live in poverty or are food insecure
 - Among highest morbidity & mortality rates of any developed nation
- U.S. perspective of being “better” than other nations
- U.S. political system
- Lack of investment in children and youth

Children's Rights in the U.S.



- City and State resolutions
- Governor Proclamations
- Organizations dedicated to promoting child wellbeing
- Voting age debate
- Laws and legal debates
- Youth participation
- Media coverage
- Child Friendly Cities Initiative

Why do we
care?



Podcast episodes

🔑 Visit our [Buzzsprout Podcast Page](#) for quick access to all other available directories: ApplePodcasts, Spotify, Overcast, YouTube Music, Pocket Casts, Deezer, and PlayerFM.

Why do *you* care?

Break Question...

What has been your
favorite or most
impactful moment
while doing human
rights work?



The graphic features a central white rectangular box containing the text "5-MINUTE BREAK" in a blue, serif font. The text is underlined with a solid blue line. This central box is set against a background of yellow and blue rectangular blocks. A thin black vertical line runs through the center of the composition, passing behind the white box.

5-MINUTE BREAK

Child Rights & Current Issues

BREAKOUT ROOMS

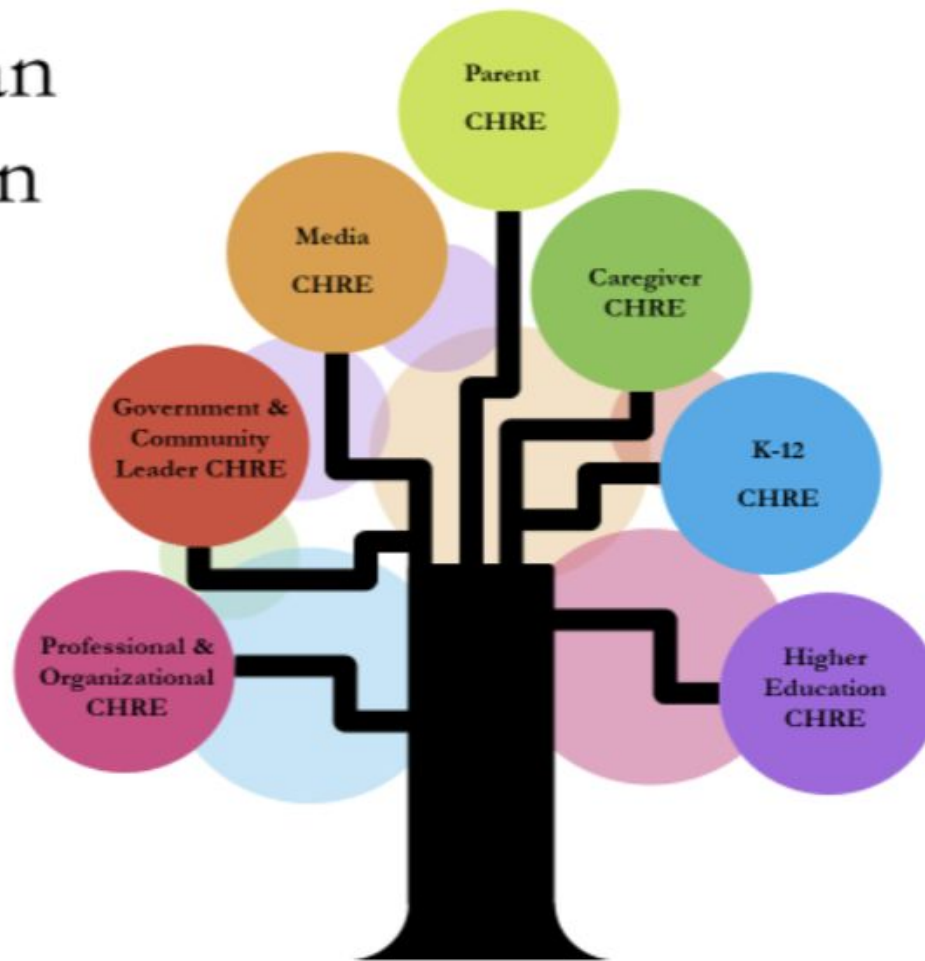
Brainstorm

- How does CRC relate to **current issues**? (e.g. ballot measures, housing propositions, children at the border, healthcare, higher ed access, etc.)
- How can/does the CRC apply to **YOUR learning/work environments**?
- **HOW** have you **seen young people take action**?
- Are there **other ways** young people can take action? (*Can also add to chat.*
 - *e.g. identify stakeholders*
 - *develop questions for stakeholders*

The image features a central white rectangular area containing the text "SHARE BACK" in a bold, black, serif font. This central area is set against a background composed of yellow and blue rectangular blocks. A thin black vertical line separates the yellow blocks on the left from the blue blocks on the right. The text is centered horizontally within the white area.

SHARE BACK

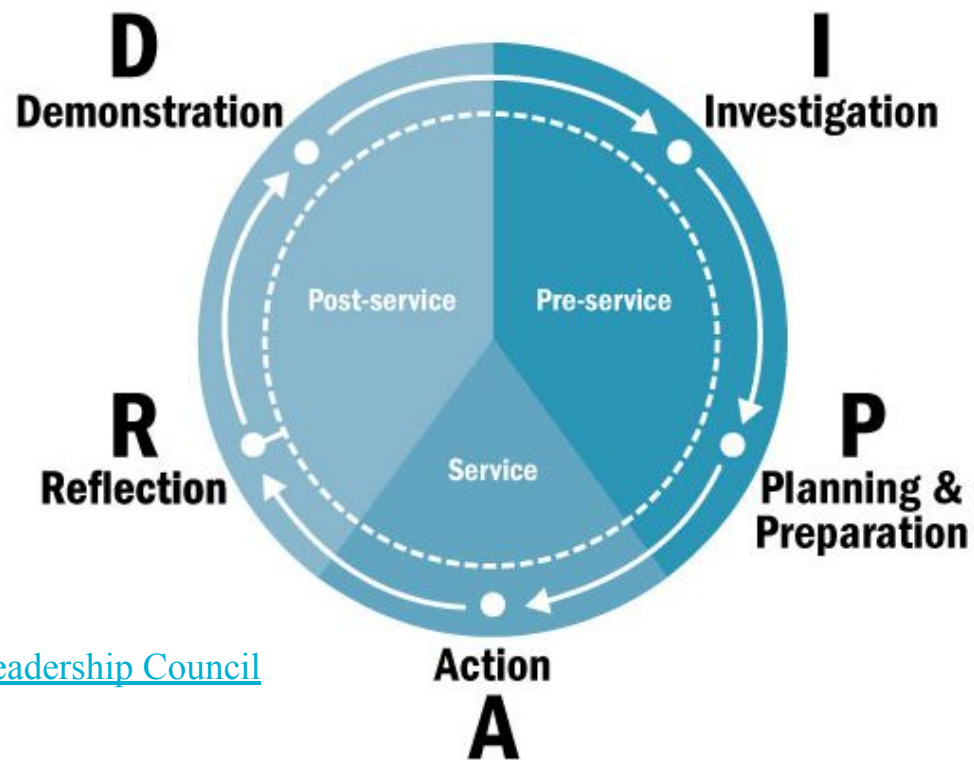
Children's Human Rights Education Framework



New Tactics in Human Rights Approach



Service-Learning Approach



From: [National Youth Leadership Council](#)

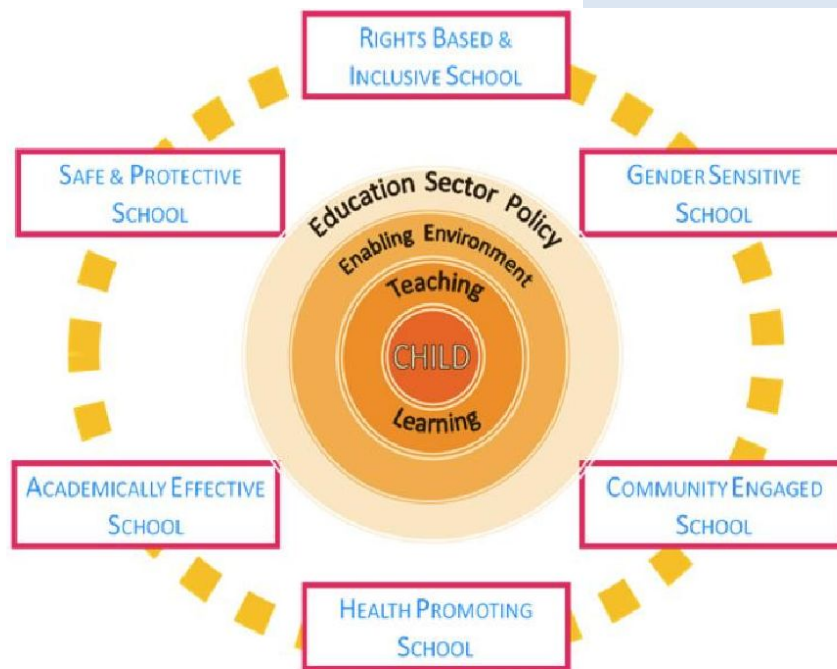
UNICEF USA Initiatives

Child Friendly Cities Initiative

How We Work Becoming a Child Friendly City



Child Friendly Schools Model



Child friendly school

- This is a child friendly school
- This school respects child rights completely
- Here the child has the freedom of expression
- Here the teachers and children are in good friendship
- Here each child gets care and protection
- Here nobody shows any type of discrimination to children
- Here the children are not tortured mentally or physically.
- Here we are all friends

Action recommendations / What can YOU do?

Let's create a big list!

Personal Resolution & Commitment Statement

I, _____, commit myself to be a children's human rights defender. I believe that children are human beings whose rights to provision, protection, and participation should be defended. I commit myself to work diligently to respect young people's rights in my words, attitudes, and actions. I will inspire individuals, organizations, businesses, and political entities to learn more about children as rights holders and to help them to embed human rights into their policies and practices.

CRC Toolkit and Digital Resources

EVERY CHILD, EVERY RIGHT



Resource Kit to Teach & Learn about the CRC

Every Child, Every Right Toolkit

The Every Child, Every Right Toolkit is a curated online resource for teaching and learning about The UN Convention on The Rights of the Child.

EVERY CHILD, EVERY RIGHT



Campaign to Ratify the CRC in the USA

CRC in the USA Campaign

In honor of the upcoming 30th Anniversary of the CRC, HRE USA is galvanizing support for U.S. ratification of the CRC at local, national and federal levels.

EVERY CHILD, EVERY RIGHT



HRE USA Resource Library on Children's Rights

Children's Rights Resources

Our full library of materials on children's rights including curriculum, lesson plans, documents, manuals, articles, books, film and more.

EVERY CHILD, EVERY RIGHT



Share A Video About Why You Support the CRC

Show Your Support For the CRC!

Help us celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Share a video about why the CRC is important to you. #ForEveryChild #CRC30



Children's Rights Learning Library

Enroll in the online [Children's Rights Learning Library](#) on Canvas.

EVERY CHILD, EVERY RIGHT



Youth Engagement Recognition

HRE USA Honors HRW STF

HRE USA recognizes the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force for its leadership in the promotion of children's rights and its youth activism locally, nationally, and internationally

Resources:

Training as Action Series, 2024-2025 -- Mondays at 7 p.m. ET

- Democracy and Youth Rights (panel discussion) -- 10/21
- Trust Kids! Dismantling Hierarchy in Human Rights Advocacy -- 11/18
- A Children's Rights-Lens to Youth/Human Rights Advocacy -- 12/2
- Digital Citizenship & Human Rights in the Age of Disinformation -- 2/10
- Challenging U.S.-Centric Models, Building International Youth Solidarity -- 2/24
- Big Actions, Big Feelings: Practical Empathy in Human Rights -- 3/10
- Theory of Change: Designing Youth Spaces/Places in Human Rights -- 4/14

Evaluation/Feedback



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T2GBVZN>

Thank You!