

# Understanding Your Rights

## IBVM/CJ UN NGO

### Lesson 3: Rights





# Human Rights

*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is the first document to set out fundamental human rights that are universally protected.*

- *The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948.*
- *It was created by the international community as a vow to never again allow the atrocities of the World War II.*
- *The Declaration outlines 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us.*
- *These rights continue to form the basis for international human rights law.*
- *Eleanor Roosevelt is recognized as the driving force for the Declaration and served as chair of the drafting committee.*



# Rights of the Child

*The Rights of the Child defines children's rights to protection, education, health care, shelter and nutrition.*

**DO YOU  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS?**

- *In 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child which served as a foundational document.*
- *In 1989, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.*
- *The Convention explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments.*
- *The Convention defines a "child" as a person below the age of 18*
- *The Convention outlines 42 Rights of the Child, Article 42 to 54 explain how to make sure children enjoy their rights.*
- **Article 42 of the Convention: Everyone must know children's rights -**  
*Governments should actively tell children and adults about this Convention so that everyone knows about children's rights.*

# Rights of Women

*The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is the most comprehensive global agenda for the achievement of gender equality.*

- The Platform for Action was created in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.
- The Platform for Action creates a comprehensive international policy framework for women's human rights and gender equality.
- The Beijing conference built on political agreements reached at the three previous global conferences on women.
- It sets out strategic objectives under **12 key areas** of concern where urgent action is needed for the advancement of women and gender equality. →

1. WOMEN AND POVERTY
2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN
3. WOMEN AND HEALTH
4. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
5. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT
6. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY
7. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING
8. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
9. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN
10. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA
11. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT
12. THE GIRL-CHILD ★



# Rights of the Girl Child

*Section L of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action outlines strategic objectives to empower and achieve equality for girls.*



- Section L recognises that girls face unique discrimination from the earliest stages of life, through her childhood and into adulthood.
- The reasons for the discrepancy include harmful attitudes and practices, son preference, early marriage, violence against women, sexual exploitation, discrimination against girls in food allocation and other practices related to health and well-being.
- Initiatives should be taken to prepare girls to participate actively, effectively and equally with boys at all levels of social, economic, political and cultural leadership.
- There are 9 strategic objectives within Section L





# Section L

**Section L of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action outlines 9 strategic objectives for the rights of girls.**

- 1 Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl-child**
- 2 Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls.**
- 3 Promote and protect the rights of the girl-child and increase awareness of her needs and potential.**
- 4 Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training.**
- 5 Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition.**



# Section L

*Section L of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action outlines 9 strategic objectives for the rights of girls.*

- 6 Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work.*
- 7 Eradicate violence against the girl-child.*
- 8 Promote the girl-child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life.*
- 9 Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl-child.*

# Working Group on Girls (WGG)

*WGG is an NGO committed that is focused on advocating for the special needs of girls at the UN.*



- Section L of the Beijing Platform for Action represents the efforts of WGG original members.
- WGG primarily advocates for the rights of girls during the Commission on the Status of Women and International Day of the Girl.
- IBVM UN NGO is a member of the WGG committee.



## Mission

- Advance the rights and status of girls in all areas of the world and at all stages of their lives.
- Ensure girls inclusion as equal participants in all decisions affecting them.
- Support girls to develop their full potential through WGG Member organizations.
- Provide girls with the opportunities to advocate for their rights through the United Nations (UN) systems and structures.



# Conversation Circle Toolkit

*WGG has many initiatives to engage girls from around the world in their advocacy.*

## WGG GIRL ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL SPEAK OUT
- CSW STATEMENT WRITING
- CSW TOWN HALL EVENT
- CONVERSATION CIRCLE TOOLKIT →



## Conversation Circle Toolkit

- *The Conversation Circle Toolkit provides a guide for girls lead their own conversation circles on gender inequality and submit a summary of their discussion to WGG.*
- *The summaries are compiled and submitted to UN Women to inform the discussion and advocacy efforts.*
- *Each conversation circle will have a Girl Facilitator, Girl Rapporteur (note taker), 8-10 girl participants, 1 adult.*
- *Girls should spend 1-1.5 hours participating in the conversation circle.*

# Conversation Circle Toolkit

*If you would like to complete the Conversation Circle Toolkit, here is a checklist in preparation for the event.*

- ☐ *Select a date, time and location [confirm date with the UN IBVM Rep to ensure it is consistent with WGG timeline]*
- ☐ *Confirm number of participants and number of conversation circles*
- ☐ *Choose a Girl Facilitator for each conversation circle*
- ☐ *Choose a Girl Rapporteur (note taker) for each conversation circle*
- ☐ *Leading up to the event:*
  - Facilitators, rapporteurs and guiding adult read the toolkit*
  - Girl participants reflect on local inequality issues facing girls*

## Facilitator Role

- Read toolkit in advance*
- Guide the conversation*
- Keep time*
- Manage the group*

## Rapporteur Role

- Read toolkit before event*
- Take notes*
- Submit final summary*

*\*To access toolkit, see IBVM UN NGO website or email IBVM UN Rep.*



# Suggested Activity

*This is a suggested activity for students who are passionate about advocacy.*

- 1** *Read the “Section L. The Girl-Child” of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - Youth Translation:*  
<https://girlsrights.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Beijing-Platform-for-Action-Youth-Translation.pdf>
- 2** *Critically assess the strategic objectives that have not yet been achieved at a local, national and regional level.*
- 3** *Discuss: “How can your governments better protect the rights of the girl-child and achieve the strategic objectives outlined in Section L?”*

# Stretch Activity

*This is a stretch activity for students who are passionate about advocacy.*

1) Research your country's permanent mission to the UN and answer the following questions:

- *When did they become a member of the UN?*
- *What human rights treaties/conventions have they signed?*
- *What human rights treaties/conventions have they NOT ratified?*  
*(Signing reflects intent to agree, ratification is binding and incorporated in local law)*
- *Which UN specialised agencies and regional commissions do they participate in?*

2) Write a summary of your findings and share with the IBVM/CJ UN NGO



# Additional Resources

## Videos

Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RR4VXNX3jA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RR4VXNX3jA</a>
Everyone Has the Right: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDPriYA3E4I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDPriYA3E4I</a>
Rights of the Child Segment 1 - What are Childrens Rights	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COjVj9czgrY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COjVj9czgrY</a>
25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQU6aVPrTkg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQU6aVPrTkg</a>
Emma Watson at the HeForShe Campaign 2014 - Official UN Video	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkjW9PZBRfk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkjW9PZBRfk</a>
International Day of the Girl 2023	<a href="https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1o/k1ouw1jrtg">https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1o/k1ouw1jrtg</a>



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