

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



IF YOU ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AND SOMEONE HAS:

- touched your body, or asked you to touch theirs, in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable and/or ashamed;
- or has talked to you in a sexual way;
- forced, threatened or manipulated you into having sex or taking part in sexual activities with someone aged below 18 or older;
- audio recorded, filmed, or photographed you while naked or taking part in sexual activities or has shown you, asked you to listen, watch or look at sexual activities;
- moved you from your home to another place within or outside your country and then forced, threatened or manipulated you into taking part in sexual activities.
- If these acts were done to you regardless of whether you were paid for them – either with money or through gifts, treats or favours;
- by someone in your family, a friend, neighbour, boyfriend or girlfriend or by a complete stranger; either online or offline:

IT MEANS YOU ARE A **VICTIM** OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE WHICH IS A **CRIME** UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DO THESE THINGS TO YOU, BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.

NOBODY SHOULD EVER BLAME YOU FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU BECAUSE IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT.

You have, like any other person, **Rights**. They are the things every child should have to lead happy, healthy and safe lives, and adults like your parents, teachers or your government, are supposed to provide you with opportunities to be able to use your Rights. This poster tells you about your Rights listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and other international treaties. Children just like you, helped to write this poster for you to understand and find out how to get the protection and care you are entitled to.

The Convention has four general principles that must be applied across all children's Rights:

- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATION**
Teachers, social workers, police officers, lawyers and others must do their best to treat you fairly and protect all of your Rights, no matter who you are or where you come from, or who you love.
- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT FOR YOUR BEST INTERESTS TO BE GIVEN PRIMARY CONSIDERATION**
All actions and decisions that affect you should be based on what is best for you.

- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT**
You have the Right to grow up and develop in a healthy manner and in a safe environment. Adults should help you in realising this Right.
- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD AND INFLUENCE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU**
When adults are making decisions that affect you, you have the Right to say freely what you think should happen to you and your opinion has to be listened to and taken seriously.

SPECIFIC RIGHTS FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE ARE:

1 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REPORT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU

You should not feel scared or ashamed to tell a safe person, a trusted organisation, or the police what has happened, or is happening to you. A safe person is someone who has never hurt you. He or she could be a family member, friend, teacher, lawyer, doctor or social worker. If you do tell a safe person or a trusted organisation to help you, they might have to tell the police what happened to you.

2 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED

Your Right to be protected includes your Right to be rescued from the sexual exploitation and abuse. Police have a duty to prevent and detect crimes and to help you in getting out of danger and away from people who hurt you. Often the police will work with other people such as social workers, doctors and others to make sure that all your needs are met and you are supported.

3 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FILE A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PEOPLE WHO HURT YOU

You have the Right to decide if you want to officially complain about the person who hurt you. If you do, the police should investigate your complaint. Together with prosecutors, judges and lawyers, they should handle your complaint as quickly as possible, but the process can sometimes be long and tiring. If, at the end of the process the people who hurt you are found guilty, they should be punished.

4 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPECIAL TREATMENT WHEN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE LEGAL PROCESS

You have an important role in the legal process. You may have to tell your story more than once and you will probably have to go to court. This can be difficult, but taking part in the legal process should never be harmful to you. If you are asked to do anything during the legal process that makes you afraid or upset, speak up because special measures can be taken to help you.

5 YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO GET HELP THAT CAN MAKE THE LEGAL PROCESS EASIER FOR YOU

During the legal process you may want legal advice, help with translation, or just some information about how the legal system works. You can sometimes get this help for free at the hospital, police station, prosecutor's office, courthouse or from your social worker. There are also community organisations, such as legal aid societies or children's rights groups, who can give you the help you need.

6 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE DURING THE LEGAL PROCESS

You and your family have a Right to be protected from threats or harassment during the legal process. No one should try to make you change your story or take back what you have said.

7 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR PRIVACY RESPECTED DURING THE LEGAL PROCESS

Police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers should ensure that no information that could help the public identify you (for example, your name, address, and picture) gets out.

8 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO HELP YOU COPE AND GET BETTER BEFORE AND DURING THE LEGAL PROCESS AND UNTIL YOU FEEL OKAY AGAIN

You have the Right to have your basic needs met, including food, clothing and shelter. You also have a Right to receive or continue your education, and any care or support you may need, such as medical treatment and counselling. Receiving these services shouldn't depend on whether there is a criminal complaint or not.

9 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO GET INFORMATION RELATED TO THE LEGAL PROCESS

You have the Right to know what is happening with your complaint. The information you receive should be in a language that you understand. You have the Right to ask questions at any time.

10 YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FOR THE HARM DONE TO YOU

You can start a process against the person(s) who hurt you to receive money or other benefits, to make up for the harm caused to you. You might also be able to receive money from the government to pay for any costs you have had or for any services you have used (such as counselling and medical expenses) to help you get better.

Reading this poster was really important because you have the "Right to know about all your Rights!". There are a lot of people and organisations who can help and protect you, including social services, non-governmental organisations, and helplines.

If you, or someone you know is, in danger and you're not sure what to do, you should call your national helpline number. They will be able to tell you how you can get help

Find out who can help you in your country: www.ecpat.org/where-we-work
Look out for your national helpline number: www.childhelplineinternational.org/where-we-work



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FOR HELP CALL

[ADD NATIONAL HELPLINE NUMBER]