

About Children's Rights

by Anna Blavaki



Nowadays, there are many facts which show us that children's rights are being violated. For example, child labor. Poor children look thin and hungry, wear rugged clothes and some do not even wear shoes. They have to work and most times they do not go to school. For this phenomenon there are many causes but

there is no excuse.

In 1989 governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the child. Everyone, under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention. These rights describe what a child needs to survive, grow and live up to their potential in the world. Children's rights are the human rights to health, to associate with both parents, as well as the basic needs for food, education, play and recreation. A life in a high standard of living, which has to be protected from abuse and harm.

One of these rights, is the freedom of speech. Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinion taken into account. It does not matter how old they are, they have opinion and they should describe how they feel and what they want. In addition to this, the voice of each child must be heard and respected in all matters concerning his or her rights.

Furthermore, all children have the right to a primary education , which should be free. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of. In contrast with this notion, there are parents who never attended school. For example, they believe that education is not for their children or they do not see the point of it. They think that children learn more from working

than at school. In this way, labor harms children or keeps them away from school. Worse still, children in countries like Argentina, India, China, Egypt or USA work in extreme temperatures, health risks, little or no pay and inadequate food and water.

Violation of children's rights is due to Government which does not provide the rights via media, school or it does not protect them. Secondly, educational system excludes poor children, so they become victims of employers, who benefit from cheap labor and especially from children. Apart from this, parents with poor education, entrenched attitudes, social injustice are some of the reasons that children's rights are violated. People have not done enough to stop it! Violation exists because people accept it and because children's rights most times, in fact, are not respected!!

In conclusion, the child is growing to be a future adult who has no means to protect itself. We have to give the opportunity to him, to achieve his full development in a healthy environment with love and care. We have to protect their rights and their lives. As the Declaration of Geneva has suggested:

“Humanity has to do its best for the child”.