

NOTES ON THE UNCRPD Part 1 - Introduction

This is the first of a series of notes that will outline the content of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and its associated Protocol. Each note will go through one or more articles of the Convention, leaving out bits that don't add to the meaning, and giving a short explanation where needed.

We will place on the Council's website a copy of the actual Convention. We hope to add an Easy-Read version, or a link to one already produced, in the near future.

Why was the Convention created?

To quote directly from the British Equality and Human Rights Commission:

"If you are a disabled person the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (the Convention) is for you.

The Convention is a new international human rights agreement that:

- Recognises that we are all equal. Disabled people have the same rights as everyone else to freedom, respect, equality and dignity.
- Brings together all our basic human rights in one place.
- Describes what government has agreed to do to make these rights real.

The Convention was created because often our human rights are not respected and we face many barriers to inclusion in society.

The Convention is not just a paper 'declaration' without any teeth. It requires government to take action to remove barriers and give disabled people real freedom, dignity and equality. We can use it in lots of different ways to make sure our rights are respected and to get a better deal."* End of quote.

Contents of the UNCRPD

The UNCRPD consists of a preamble and 50 articles. Articles 34 and above deal with technicalities and procedural matters. We will not deal with those here.

Articles 1, 2 and 3 are Statements of Purpose, Definitions and General Principles respectively.

The important parts are the preamble and Articles 4 through 33, and it is instructive to read through the headings, to get an idea of the things discussed in the Convention:

- Article 4 – General Obligations of parties to the Convention
- Article 5 – Equality and non-discrimination
- Article 6 – Women with disabilities

Article 7 – Children with disabilities
Article 8 – Awareness-raising
Article 9 – Accessibility
Article 10 – Right to life
Article 11 – Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies
Article 12 – Equal recognition before the law
Article 13 – Access to justice
Article 14 – Liberty and security of person
Article 15 – Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Article 16 – Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse
Article 17 – Protecting the integrity of the person
Article 18 – Liberty of movement and nationality
Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community
Article 20 – Personal mobility
Article 21 – Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information
Article 22 – Respect for privacy
Article 23 – Respect for home and the family
Article 24 – Education
Article 25 – Health
Article 26 – Habilitation and rehabilitation
Article 27 – Work and employment
Article 28 – Adequate standard of living and social protection
Article 29 – Participation in political and public life
Article 30 – Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport
Article 31 – Statistics and data collection
Article 32 – International cooperation
Article 33 – National implementation and monitoring

The Protocol

This is an optional extra document that gives people a mechanism for raising complaints about their government's implementation of the Convention.

Note 2 will bring you the Preamble.

To read the full text of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, [click here \(pdf\)](#).

References:

*UK Equality and Human Rights Commission. "The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities - What does it mean for you?"