**I TOO HAVE A VOICE!**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

**What is a convention?**

A convention is a document created by people from many countries all over the world.

The Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities is formed by 50 articles about various rights of people with disabilities.

The convention establishes what countries should do so that people with disabilities enjoy the same rights as everyone else.

**What is the United Nations Organisation?**

The United Nations Organisation is formed by 193 countries from all over the world. These countries work together for peace in the world, for friendship among countries and for a better life for people, including for the life of children with disabilities.

**What is the meaning of rights?**

All children, including children with disabilities, have equal rights. All rights are important.

For example, children with disabilities have the right to go to school, to be healthy, to wok when they grow up, to live a happy life, as well as other rights in the Convention. The Convention ensures that countries respect these rights.

Article 1, Purpose

**What is the meaning of disability?**

People with disabilities include those who, for a longer period of time, have difficulties walking, seeing, hearing, learning or doing various activities, due to some barriers around them.

Article 1, Purpose

**A few words**

COMMUNICATION means the various ways in which people with disabilities can understand and transmit messages, for examples language like sign language, Braille, computers and technologies.

DISCRIMINATION is when you are treated differently than other people or you are excluded because of disability.

Article 2, Definitions

**Equal rights**

* People are free to make their own choices.
* No one will be discriminated.
* People with disabilities have the same rights to be part of the society, just like everyone else.
* People with disabilities, including children with disabilities, must be respected the way they are.
* All people must have equal opportunities and equal access.
* Men and women must have equal opportunities.

Article 3, General principles

Article 5, Equality and non-discrimination

**Girls and women with disabilities**

All countries agree that girls and women with disabilities are treated unfairly and unequally.

So, countries must make sure that they have the equal rights, opportunities and liberties as boys and men do.

Article 6, Women with disabilities

**Children with disabilities**

Children with disabilities have the same rights as all the other children.

In everything they do, countries must think about what is best for children with disabilities, so that they have a voice that must be heard and respected.

Article 7, Children with disabilities

**Freedom, safety, protection**

Countries must protect the freedom of people with disabilities and must make sure that are not ill treated.

No one can be subjected to torture and punishments, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

No one can be subjected to exploitation, violence and abuse.

Article 14, Liberty and security of the person

Article 15, Article 16

Article 17, Protecting the integrity of the person

**Independent life, mobility**

People with disabilities have the right to choose what they want to do in life and to move independently.

Countries must make sure that they can do these things, by providing appropriate services for people with disabilities.

Article 19, Living independently and being included in the community

Article 20, Personal mobility

**Family**

People with disabilities have the right to a family and to personal relations. Children with disabilities have the right to live with their families.

Countries must make sure that these rights are respected.

Article 23, Respect for home and the family

**Education** VOICE!

Children with disabilities have the right to go to school and learn, just like all children.

Parents, teachers and everyone must support children to learn by using appropriate language and methods.

Article 24, Education

**Health**

People with disabilities have the right to enjoy good health and access to doctors and health services.

Parents, doctors and everyone must support children to be healthy.

Article 25, Health

**Fun, good times and sports**

People with disabilities have the right to enjoy sport, cultural life and recreation, just like everyone else.

Books, shows, museums, films and sports must be accessible for children with disabilities.

Article 30, Participation to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

This material is a brief presentation of some of the rights of people with disabilities, as they are described in the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. This material is not a legal document.

The convention can be read in full here:

**www.anpd.gov.ro/web/conventia/**

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