

# Uraia

Kenya's National Civic Education Programme

## Understanding Children's Rights

BECAUSE  
**KENYANS** HAVE  
RIGHTS AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES



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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK  
*Denmark in Kenya*

# PREAMBLE We, the people of Kenya—

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the supremacy of the Almighty God of all creation:

**HONOURING** those who heroically struggled to bring freedom and justice to our land:

**PROUD** of our ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and determined to live in peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign nation:

**RESPECTFUL** of the environment, which is our heritage, and determined to sustain it for the benefit of future generations:

**COMMITTED** to nurturing and protecting the well-being of the individual, the family, communities and the nation:

**RECOGNISING** the aspirations of all Kenyans for a government based on the essential values of human rights, equality, freedom, democracy, social justice and the rule of law:

**EXERCISING** our sovereign and inalienable right to determine the form of governance of our country and having participated fully in the making of this Constitution:

**ADOPT, ENACT** and give this Constitution to ourselves and to our future generations.

## God Bless Kenya





- A child is under 18
- Every child has the right to be heard
- Every child has the right to protection
- Every child has the right to dream

### Definition Of A Child.

**A child is any person under the age of 18.**  
(Article 260 of the Constitution of Kenya)



### Identity

**Children have the right to their own identity – an official record of who they are which includes their name, nationality and family relations. No one should take this away from them, but if this happens, government must help children to quickly get their identity back.**

**(Article 53 1(a) CoK 2010)**



## Access to Education

**Every child has the right to an education. Primary education should be free. Secondary and higher education should be available to every child. Children should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible. Discipline in schools should respect children's rights and never use violence.**  
(Article 53 1(b) CoK 2010)



## Food Clothing & A Safe Home

**Children have the right to the best health care possible, clean water to drink, healthy food and a clean and safe environment to live in. All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy**

(Article 53 1(c) CoK 2010)

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## Health, Water, Food & Environment

**Children have the right to the best health care possible, clean water to drink, healthy food and a clean and safe environment to live in. All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.**

**(Article 53 1(c) CoK 2010)**



### *Best interest of the child*

**When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.**

**All adults should do what is best for children.**

**Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed.**

**Governments should make sure that people and places responsible for looking after children are doing a good job.**





## Respect for children's views

**Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them.**

**Adults should listen and take children seriously**



## No Discrimination

**All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do.**

**No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.**

## Protection of Privacy

**Every child has the right to privacy. The law must protect children's privacy, family, home, communications and reputation (or good name) from any attack.**

## Protection from Violence

**Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected by anyone who looks after them.**



## Everyone Must Know Children's Rights

**Governments should actively tell children and adults about this Convention so that everyone knows about children's rights.**

### Responsibilities Of A Child

- 1. Every child has the responsibility to help their family**
- 2. respect their parents**
- 3. serve their country well**
- 4. contribute to their country's development.**

**(African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child)**

### Children with Disabilities

**Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society. Every child has the right to special education and care if they have a disability. Governments should remove all obstacles for children with disabilities to become independent and to participate actively in the community.**

## Constitution of Kenya 2010

### Children. 53.

**(1) Every child has the right —**

- (a) to a name and nationality from birth;**
- (b) to free and compulsory basic education;**
- (c) to basic nutrition, shelter and health care;**
- (d) to be protected from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, all forms of violence, inhuman treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour;**
- (e) to parental care and protection, which includes equal responsibility of the mother and father to provide for the child, whether they are married to each other or not; and**
- (f) not to be detained, except as a measure of last resort, and when detained, to be held —**

- (i) for the shortest appropriate period of time; and**
- (ii) separate from adults and in conditions that take account of the child's sex and age.**

**(2) A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.**





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