



Pass a Resolution in Support of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Your Community

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the most comprehensive treaty on children's rights and was adopted on November 20, 1989. The CRC has been ratified by every country in the world except the United States and Somalia (which has been a failed state without an effective government over the past two decades).

Twenty years after the adoption of the CRC and nearly fifteen years after it was signed by President Clinton, the Obama administration has an opportunity to bring the CRC to the Senate for consent and approval. If ratified by the United States, the CRC would bolster existing protections and foster U.S. commitment to and promotion of children's rights in the U.S and around the world. On the state and city level, communities can call on their local governments to pass resolutions that provide greater respect and protection of children's rights, consistent with the CRC.

Below you will find a sample Community Resolution (various cities and states have adopted a similar model), and tips for passing a resolution. If you pass a resolution in your community, please share it with us at humanrights@aclu.org.

Tips on Passing a Human Rights Resolution in Your Community

- **Know Your Community:** Determine if your community has already made a pledge to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. If your community hasn't already made the pledge, consider what organizations and activists in your community may be particularly interested in joining the resolution effort. Understand your local administration and how decisions are made. Research council members and government representatives who may be willing to support, if not sponsor, the resolution.
- **Build a Coalition:** Identify organizations in your community that you think may wish to work on the resolution effort. Reach out to a broad array of organizations that reflect the diversity in your community.
- **Host an Organizing Meeting:** Convene a coalition meeting to discuss this project as a group. Use the sample resolution below as a starting point and highlight the needs of coalition partners and your particular community as you draft a final document. You may even want to involve sympathetic government officials in the drafting process.
- **Implement a Strategy for Passing the Resolution:** Schedule informal meeting(s) with your local council members and government representatives and present them with evidence of public support. Work on a plan to introduce the resolution. Be ready to organize calls and identify key people to testify in support of the resolution.
- **Share the News of Your Success:** If you pass a resolution in your community, please share it with us at humanrights@aclu.org.



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City / State of _____ has demonstrated a sustained commitment toward the realization of human rights for all, including its children; and

WHEREAS, The City / State of _____ believes that the primary responsibility to promote respect for these rights and freedoms lies with each individual in _____, and each of us can play a major role in enhancing human rights; and

WHEREAS, Ensuring access to a full range of opportunities has a significant impact on our children; and

WHEREAS, Children represent our future, and we all have a stake in their development, in creating and sustaining programs that support them, providing them access to a full range of opportunities throughout their childhood, and in ensuring no child goes hungry, homeless, or languishes with a second-rate education.

WHEREAS, The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United General Assembly on November 20, 1989, and became effective as an international treaty September 2, 1990; and

WHEREAS, The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the only international human treaty to recognize the critical role of the family and the parent-child relationship; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Somalia are the only two countries that have not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Although the U.S. signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995, and ratified two optional protocols in 2002, it has still not ratified it; and

WHEREAS, A recommitment by the United States to the principles and ideals of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is essential not only for improving its standing in the world at this particular moment, but, more importantly, for its promise to ensure equality and justice for all at home; and

WHEREAS, The adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child supports _____ 's stature as a leader in promoting the care and well-being of children; and

BE IT RESOLVED, We, the _____ (governance representatives) of _____, do hereby affirm our support on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We will work to advance the policies and practices necessary and consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to improve the lives of our children and community at large.

Resolved this the ____ day of _____ 2009/10.