

How does war impact on human rights?

When children, young people and adults are in a place where there is war or conflict, their human rights can be affected. The following articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) could be at risk – but there are also some that can provide help

UNCRC - risks

- Article 3- The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children
- Article 6 – Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to make sure that children survive and develop to their full potential
- Article 9 – Children must not be separated from their parents unless it in their best interests
- Article 15 – Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups
- Article 16 – Every child has the right to privacy
- Article 24 – Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment
- Article 28 – Every child has the right to education

UNCRC – articles that help

- Article 22 – If a child is a refugee or is seeking refuge, governments must make sure that they have the same rights as any other child. Governments must help in trying to reunite child refugees with their parents
- Article 38 – Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war
- Article 39 – Children neglected, abused, exploited or who are victims of war must receive special help to help them recover their health, dignity and self-respect

UDHR - Risks

- Article 3 – Everyone has the right to liberty and to feel safe
- Article 12 – Everyone has the right to privacy and, a family and a safe home
- Article 17 – no one should have their property taken from them without a good reason
- Article 20 – Everyone has the right to meet peacefully with others
- Article 24 – Everyone has the right to rest and leisure

- Article 25 - Everyone has the right to food, clothing, housing and medical care
- Article 30 – No state, group or individual should take away the rights and freedoms of others

UDHR – articles that help

- Article 13 – Everyone has the right to move freely from one country to another, and to return to their own country
- Article 14 – Everyone has the right to seek asylum (safety) in another country

How can you help children and adults to recover their rights?

- Raise awareness in your local community
- Write to your MP / MSP and ask how the government is supporting the people of Ukraine – you could quote some of the articles
- Donate any spare clothes or blankets that are in good condition
- Join a peace protest (if you feel comfortable doing so)
- You might like to organise your own event to raise funds or collect items of clothing non-perishable foods and toiletries