

# **Involving Children in the Discussion on Their Rights: An Educational Tool to Support Child Participation**



**These cards are a summary of the  
Global Child Rights Dialogue (GCRD) project.  
Article 42 in the United Nations Convention on the  
Rights of the Child obligates governments to  
take all measures to assure that the CRC is  
widely known by children and adults.**

**This collection is the combined efforts of two research teams:  
GlobalChild at the University of Victoria and  
Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's University Belfast**



[www.globalchildnetwork.com](http://www.globalchildnetwork.com)



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# What's in this pack?

In this pack are child-friendly cards that were created to help educate children about their human rights. Ideas for how children can become engaged in these important discussions are presented in the introductory pages. Children's voices deserve to be heard and it is our hope that card users can take meaning from hearing what children have to say. Feel free to get creative in your approach to child rights education!

**38 articles from the UN CRC are grouped into 7 clusters according to theme:**

**Cluster 3: General Principles (4 Articles)**

**Cluster 4: Civil and Political Rights (7 Articles)**

**Cluster 5: Protection from Violence (2 Articles)**

**Cluster 6: Family Environment and Alternative Care (8 Articles)**

**Cluster 7: Disability, Basic Health and Welfare (5 Articles)**

**Cluster 8: Education, Leisure and Cultural Activities (4 Articles)**

**Cluster 9: Special Protection Measures (8 Articles)**



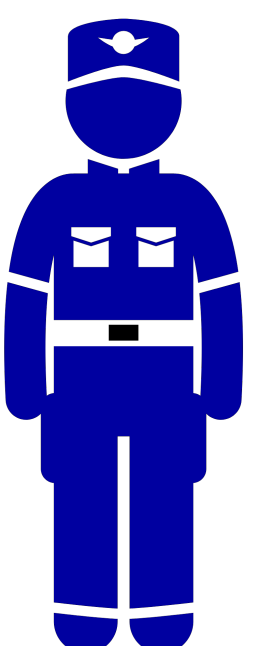
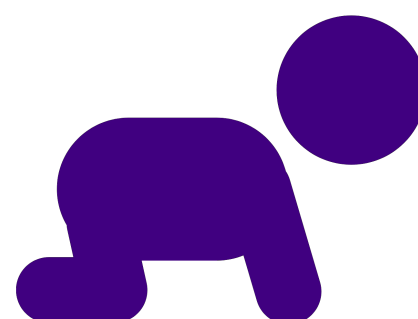
# Educating children about their rights

Page 1 of each article is a summary of each child right as articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Page 2 of each article shows examples from children on *how they would know* if their rights are being upheld.

After these are reviewed with children, you can ask:

1. Based on the quotes given, is this right being followed the same way in your country? Can you think of other ways of knowing?
2. Do you know whom to talk to if you notice that your (or other children's) rights are being violated?
3. Do you think that having this right upheld by your government is important? Why?
4. What can you do to teach other children about their rights?



# Ideas for how to use these cards:

## Tips to encourage participation:

- Some groups might benefit from an ice breaker activity
- Be creative and ask prompting questions in fun ways
- Draw on your own experience and knowledge of children's rights to give examples of each right
- Consider the ages of children in attendance
- Divide children into small groups; each group can learn about a few rights, then share with the rest of the class
- Be flexible depending on the needs of the group, e.g., children with disabilities might need additional resources or supports
- Keep sessions short and fun, try energizer activities during breaks

## When addressing each article, you can ask:

- What should governments be doing?
- What should parents/caregivers be doing?
- What evidence shows that this is happening?
- What would children be experiencing?

# Other suggestions for using these cards:

## Play a mix and match game

- Separate the first and second page of each article, then ask children to match the information about the article (first page) with the quotes (second page)

## Finding connections

- Many rights are related to other rights. Ask children to find connections between different articles. For example, governments providing support to families could benefit Article 18 (social security) and Article 27 (standard of living) rights.

## Role play as a child rights inspector, scientist or journalist

- If the children you work with have low literacy skills, an alternative activity involves role-playing, where the children act the part of an inspector, scientist, journalist, or teacher.
- Start by using the cards to learn about children's rights.
- Then, children can work in small groups to decide how they can find out if children in their country or community are enjoying their rights. Suggested questions include:
  - What do you need to find out?
  - To whom do you need to talk?
  - What information do you need from each person?

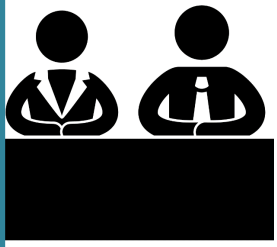
## Become a child rights champion!

- Make a plan to share what you learned with others! Whom could you teach about children's rights... Friends? Family? Teachers? Government officials?

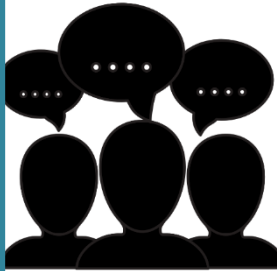
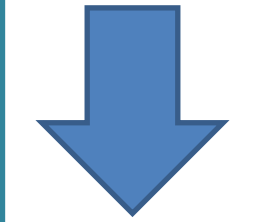




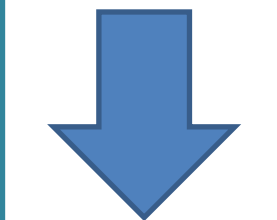
# About the GCRD project



**Adults working:** The GlobalChild team developed papers outlining each article in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

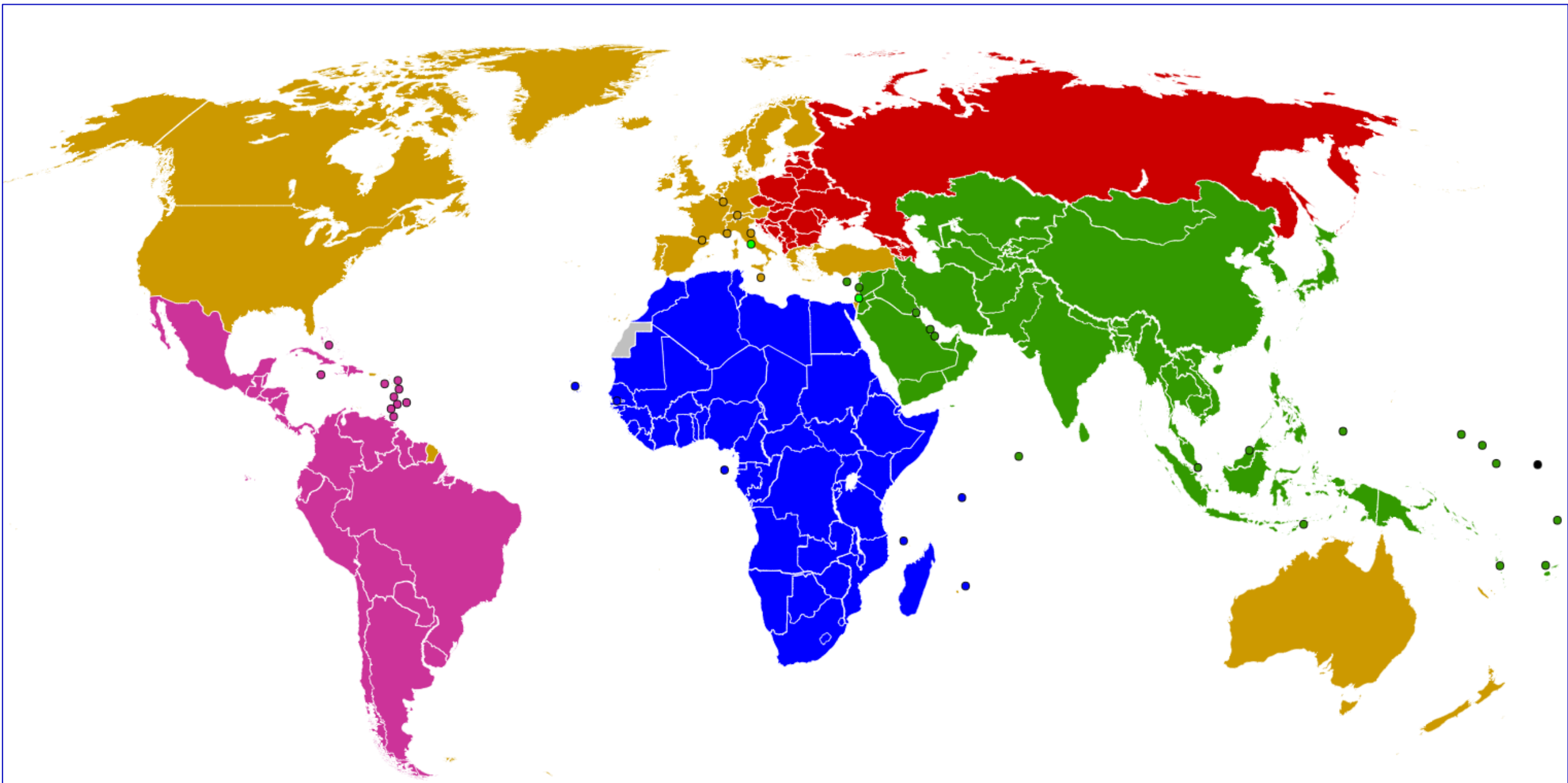


**Children collaborating:** The Centre for Children’s Rights took these to their Youth Advisory Group and created child-friendly summaries (page 1 of these cards).



**Combining information to create these cards:** Workshops held worldwide helped the GlobalChild team to create new indicators to determine if child rights are being upheld.

## Workshops were held around the world!



Region	Countries	Children
Africa	13	1010
Asia Pacific	10	342
Eastern Europe	4	169
Latin America/Caribbean	3	92
Western Europe/Other	5	223
Total:	35	1836

# More information

Our name is **GlobalChild**.

We are a group of experts from Canada and across the world who are working together to promote children's rights.

We spent over five years of research to build the GlobalChild Platform, which is made up of indicators that will help governments and other duty bearers check that they are keeping their promises under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As a part of this process we included children in conversations about their rights through the workshops of the GCRD project. Each star on the map shows where children participated:



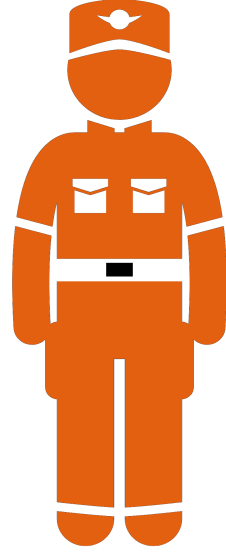
**Our funder: Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR)**

**A special thanks to all children who participated in the Global Child Rights Dialogue project and shared their views with us!**

**For more information about this project please visit:  
[www.globalchildnetwork.com](http://www.globalchildnetwork.com)**



# **CLUSTER 9 – Special Protection Measures**



## **Articles:**

**22 – Migrant and displaced children seeking asylum**

**32 – Economic exploitation, child labour and applicable minimum age**

**35 – Sale, trafficking and abduction**

**36 – Other forms of exploitation**

**37 – Sentencing, life sentence, prohibition of capital punishment alternative restorative approaches**

**38 – Children in armed conflict and their physical and psychological recovery and reintegration**

**39 – Promotion of the physical and psychological recovery of child victims**

**40 – Administration of juvenile justice, existence of specialized and separate courts**

# CLUSTER 9 – Special Protection Measures

Notes:

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# ARTICLE 22

**Governments must protect and help children who are refugees, whether they are on their own or with their families**



**Child refugees have the same rights as every child, including the rights to be heard, supported and protected**

**Refugees should be able to attend regular schools**

**Counselling should be provided to help children recover from any trauma**

**Child refugees also have special rights as refugees**

**They should understand and be heard in any processes or decisions that will decide their future**

**The child's best interests should inform all decisions**

**Governments should help children to find their families or, if not possible, they should provide the child with support and care**

**Children should not be kept in detention while they are waiting on a decision about their future**

**Governments should work together with other countries and international organisations to support child refugees.**

**Countries should share information to help children find their families**



# ARTICLE 22

Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 22 rights are being upheld:



**“Provide good nutrition for refugees especially children to ensure their growth.” (Africa)**

**“Governments should provide shelters or housing for refugees” and “Equal education, health care, etc., for refugees as is provided for other children.” (Latin America/Caribbean)**

**"Give assistance to refugees parents so that they can improve their financial situation to take care of their children." (Africa)**

**“Governments should support children and their families affected by displacement or during migration as refugees, to provide them all necessities as required by the UN Code of conduct." (Africa)**

# ARTICLE 32

**Governments should protect children from work that is dangerous or that will harm their education or health**



**This includes the worst forms of child work such as slavery, trafficking and sexual abuse.**

**Some types of work are good for children  
(e.g. helping them at home and part-time jobs  
when they are old enough)**

**Governments should make laws that protect children  
from harmful work**

**Have a minimum age at which children can work  
Have laws that set the hours and types of work they can do**

**Enforce the laws on children working**

**Have inspectors who check workplaces to ensure  
that laws are followed**

**Take businesses who break the law to court**

**Governments should do what they can to make sure that children  
do not have to do any work that can harm them**

**Make sure children can attend school for free  
Educate families and the public about the dangers of harmful  
work for children**

# ARTICLE 32

Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 32 rights are being upheld:



**“Governments should advertise more about children rights as well as make regular checkups on homes and work places to ensure children are not doing child labour or unfairly paid.”**  
*(Latin America/Caribbean)*

**“Schools holding public education initiatives by talking to parents about harmful work.”** *(Latin America/Caribbean)*

**"We have to make sure that there are reliable statistics on working children".** *(Africa)*

**“Having an enforced documented minimum age where children can start working.”** *(Latin America/Caribbean)*



# ARTICLE 35

**Governments should do all that they can to stop children being abducted\* from their families, sold or trafficked\* within their own country or to other countries**



**Abducted means being taken away illegally without the agreement of their families**

**\*Trafficking is when people are taken from their homes and forced to work for others without pay**

**Governments should take actions to stop this happening**

**They should collect information about which children are most at risk and put support in place to keep them safe**

**Governments should make laws and policies that prevent and discourage it**

**Abducting or selling children should be a crime and those who do this should be taken to court**

**Children and parents should be educated about the dangers**

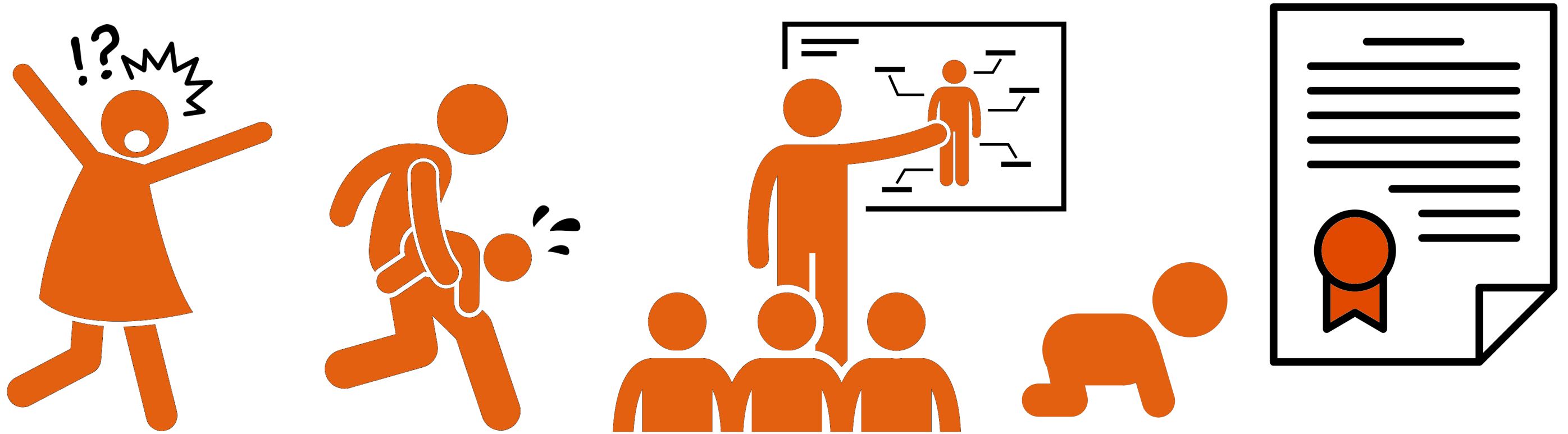
**Support for survivors/victims**

**Children who are victims should not be treated as criminals**

**Children who are victims should get help to recover**

# ARTICLE 35

Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 35 rights are being upheld:



"There should be strong laws against child abduction and trafficking made by the government to protect the interest of children." *(Africa)*

"For every child crossing the border, the State must create an administrative document for the consent of the child and his or her parents and caregivers." *(Africa)*

"Governments should train special formidable forces in executing duties in rescuing and rehabilitation of victims and prosecuting perpetrators." *(Africa)*

"Is government encouraging children to speak up about issues?" *(Latin America/Caribbean)*

# ARTICLE 36

**Governments should protect children from anything that will harm their welfare**



**Governments must keep a check on new ways that children may be harmed.**

**(That are not included in other parts of the Convention)**

**Governments must check for the abuse of children on the web/online**

**Governments must talk to children to find out what their safety concerns are**

**Governments must take steps to prevent any new forms of harm to children**

**Governments must introduce laws that make sure that businesses do not harm children**



# ARTICLE 36

Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 36 rights are being upheld:



"There should be awareness raising and campaigns through different mediums such as radio, TV, newspapers, forums and blogging on trafficking, abductions, child labour, child marriage and all forms of violation and discrimination against children and youths." *(Africa)*

"Governments should have a public campaign on child rights and ways people often harm children." *(Latin America/Caribbean)*

"Children learn where to make reports or seek refuge when these things happen." *(Africa)*

"Government should create a forum where children especially girls and women have a voice to stand strong and say "No" to violence and abuses against their rights." *(Africa)*

# ARTICLE 37

**No child should be tortured or treated cruelly  
or sentenced to death.**

**Children who have been accused of or committed crimes  
should be treated with respect and care**



**Children should never be given a death sentence or put in prison for  
life. They should never be tortured or suffer degrading treatment**

**Children should never be sentenced to physical punishment**

**Children in detention should not be put in cells on their own**

**A child should only be put in detention or prison if it is a  
last resort and for the shortest time**

**The child's sentence should be checked to make sure that they  
are in detention for the shortest period**

**Children who are in detention should be treated with respect**

**Children should not be kept in detention with adults**

**Children should be able to keep contact with their families  
wherever possible**

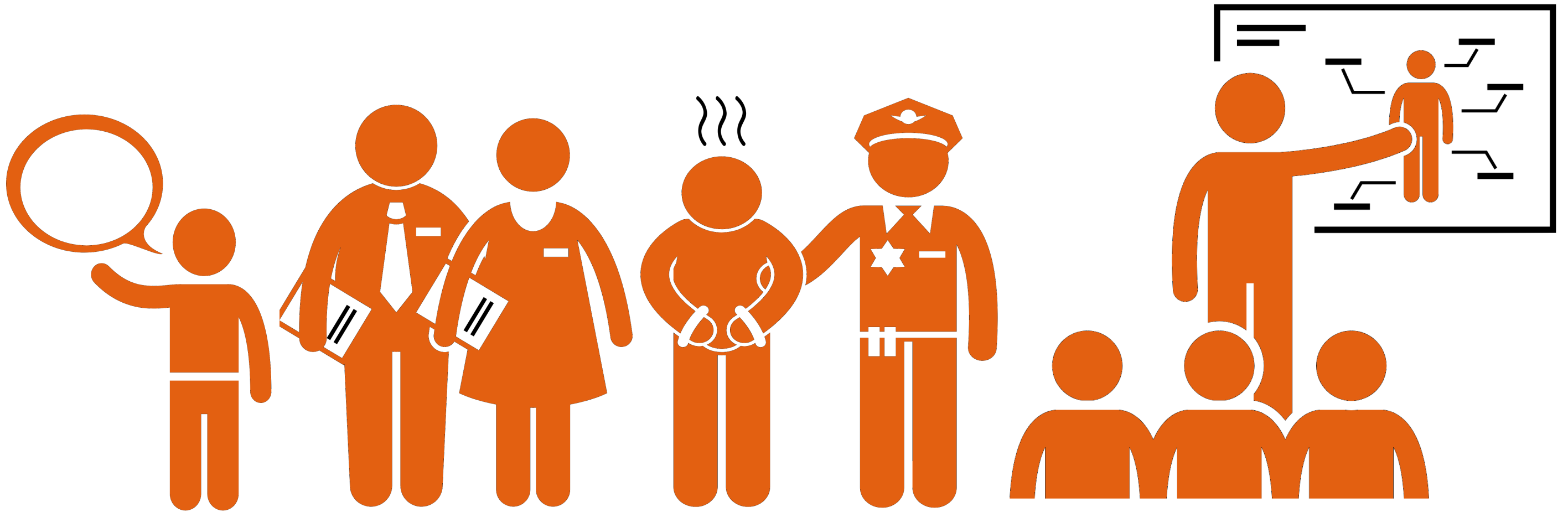
**Children who are accused of crimes should have a fair trial. They  
should be given legal help, including help to  
challenge their detention**

**Lawyers should be given training to work with children**

**Children should be given information to understand  
what is happening to them**

# ARTICLE 37

**Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 37 rights are being upheld:**



**"Policies to stop children from physical punishment should be introduced." (*Africa*)**

**"Does anyone go where accused or convicted children stay to ask questions and verify the truth? The person would work in the prison." (*Western Europe/Other*)**

**"Government should build a place where not only children can be imprisoned but also an institution where they can learn a trade and educate them about the negativity of committing crimes at an early age." (*Africa*)**

**"Train enough guards, police officers, chieftom officers, more youth, school authorities and bordering community people to make sure that any child labour, illegal movement of persons, and criminal issues against girls should be reported." (*Africa*)**



# ARTICLE 38

**Governments should do all they can to protect children in armed conflicts (e.g. wars) and stop using children as soldiers**



**Governments should protect children during conflict**

**They should follow international laws on how to treat people in armed conflict**

**They should make sure that armed groups respect children's rights**

**There should be an age limit on being a soldier**

**Children under the age of 15 should never be required or allowed to be soldiers**

**It is better if governments do not use children under 18 as soldiers**

**There should be an age limit on taking part in dangerous situations**

**Child soldiers should not take part in any way, for example as a messenger or spy**

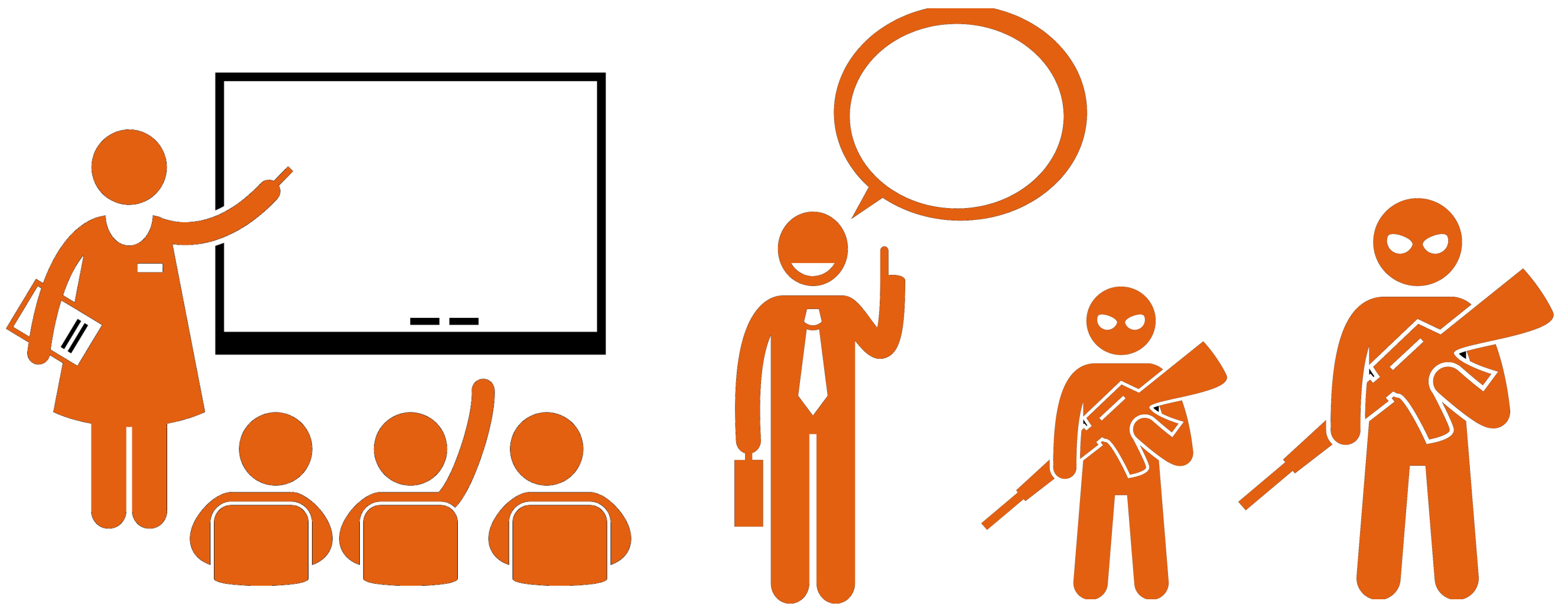
**Children should be given care and protection during conflicts**

**There should be special care for children who are alone or separated from their parents**

**Governments should make sure that education is provided for all children during conflict**

# ARTICLE 38

Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 38 rights are being upheld:



"Children have to be educated on the dangers of arm conflict. A law has to be there that would protect children from participating in arm conflict." (*Africa*)

"Children should never be forced to fight in the armed or militia forces, go to war or engaged in any conflict." (*Africa*)

"Useful activities to engage children with rather than having free time to engage in those military parties." (*Asia-Pacific*)

"Awareness workshops for children against recruitment to the armed conflicts and to be a child soldier." (*Asia-Pacific*)

# ARTICLE 39

**Governments should help children who are victims of abuse or conflict to recover and return to normal**



**Programmes should be designed to be suitable from children**  
Staff should be trained in children's rights, including how to listen to children and take their views seriously

**Children should be supported to recover**  
Services should be trained in children's rights, including how to listen to children and take their views seriously

**Support should be available where and when children need it**  
There should be funding for counselling and helplines

**Children should be informed about the services available in ways that they can understand**  
There should be age appropriate information in the language the children understand including areas where there is conflict or disaster

**All children should have access to supports**  
Support should be available to children who are refugees or seeking asylum



# ARTICLE 39

Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 39 rights are being upheld:



**"All youth protection services should be free."  
(Western Europe/Other)**

**"Through UNICEF, an NGO, or other people to make sure  
children's rights are respected." (Western Europe/Other)**

**"Are the abused children in a safe space?"  
(Western Europe/Other)**

**"There should be a forum or office which is readily available  
to channel their issues when they need funding and who are  
serious in handling the affairs of child victims." (Africa)**

**"Victims of such nature need frequent counselling for them to  
return to normal." (Africa)**

# ARTICLE 40

**Governments must make sure that every child who is accused of or found to have broken the law is treated fairly and with respect**



**There should be special systems of justice for cases involving children**

**Children's cases should be heard in special courts designed for children**

**There should be specially trained police officers and lawyers for children**

**Children should have a fair trial**

**Children should be told the charges against them and the case should be heard as quickly as possible**

**The child's name should not be made public**

**A child has the right to stay silent when questioned and not be required to confess**

**Children who need it should have help from interpreters trained to work with children**

**The governments should set a minimum age where children cannot be accused or convicted of a crime**

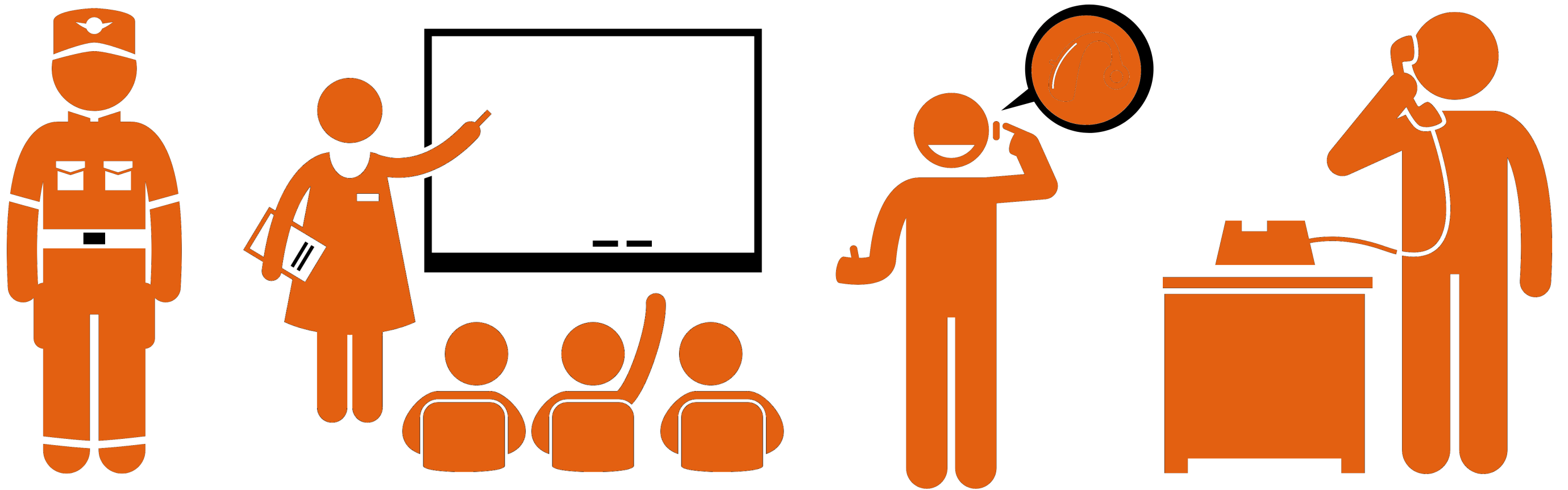
**The minimum age should be as high as possible and should not be under 12**

**Governments should have lots of ways of dealing with a child who has committed a crime that do not require criminal trials and detention**

**Instead of detention children should receive orders for education, care or counseling as long as the child agrees to this and that these are fair and reasonable**

# ARTICLE 40

Examples from children on *how we know*  
that Article 40 rights are being upheld:



“Call in an assembly to make sure what the child said or did. Have people in the assembly that do not know the child to validate whether what he did was good or bad. Proof that the assembly happened would be a paper that all the people in the assembly would sign to say they attended.” (*Western Europe/Other*)

“There should be visits in cells. They should do activities that teach them their rights because the children there are already stressed. A real human that walks around the cells.” (*Western Europe/Other*)

"Build a government training camp where a child who may be convicted and sentenced for short time will do their time in prison. By the end of their jail term, they will come out as a changed person. They need Government to provide them with training and qualified lawyers that will be looking into the case of the juvenile." (*Africa*)