



November 20  
Universal Day of Children's Rights

## OPENING CELEBRATION

The *Marist International Solidarity Foundation* ([FMSI](#)) joyfully invites you to celebrate the *Universal Children's Day 2015*.

It takes place on November 20. The United Nations General Assembly in 1954 recommended its celebration. It aimed at encouraging all countries to establish an official day to:

- promote mutual exchange and understanding among children;
- launch an initiative to support and promote the well-being of children around the world;
- celebrate the Children's Day annually.

November 20 is also the anniversary of the day in which the UN's General Assembly adopted the [Declaration of the Rights of the Child](#) in 1959.

The [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) was also approved that same day in 1989, and since then 196 States have ratified it.

We have mentioned two different documents: the *Declaration* adopted by the UN in 1959, and the *Convention*, in 1989. You may click the hyperlink on each document to view the full content.

### Convention on the Rights of the Child - Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Bearing in mind that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recognizing that the United Nations has, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling that, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance...

Starting today, November 9, we will send you a daily email to prepare the celebration of November 20. This proposal of prayer and celebration is entitled **Countdown** towards the celebration of the *Universal Children's Day 2015*: **10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0!**

FMSI or your Provincial Office will send these emails to the greater number of people possible in your Administrative Unit. We invite you to do the same by forwarding them to your friends. You could also invite your colleagues, pupils, sons and daughters to join this initiative.

Each email will bring you “VOICES OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS” from the Marist family, stories and important issues about their countries and the world. FMSI presented these same topics in the [Universal Periodic Review](#) of your respective countries. We invite you to consult the information about your own country.

Starting from tomorrow, you will get a daily email in your Inbox with the reflections FMSI has prepared with the help of a number of children and adolescents from five different countries. Besides these countries, we will also get to know three different organizations.

Together with you, we want to prepare and live intensely the *Universal Children’s Day 2015* in the entire Marist world.

After reflecting on the Year of Montagne, the Year of Fourvière started on July 23, in preparation for the 200<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary of the Marist Institute.

[FMSI](#) will welcome your feedback regarding the **Countdown** initiative. You can upload your comments on the [FMSI Facebook](#) page.

We invite you to reflect on these important issues regarding the children of your country and of the entire world.

**Follow the links! See you tomorrow!**

