



November 20  
Universal Day of Children's Rights

10 – 9 – 8 – 7 – 6 – 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1

## GETTING TO KNOW BRAZIL

Yesterday we shared with you the reality of many Guatemalan children. Were you able to check all the suggested links? Congratulations! 10, 9, 8...

Yesterday we also presented you article 1 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Now you can read article 2 of the Convention:

### Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 2

1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

Today we bring you the VOICES OF THE CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS from Brazil, a country that is not only about soccer and the famous Carnival! Click [here](#) to get more information.

Yesterday's email recalled that one of the objectives of the *Universal Children's Day* is to promote mutual exchange and understanding among children and adolescents. Did you contact someone from Guatemala on the [FMSI Facebook](#) page?

We have received many testimonies about the situation of children in Brazil. Now we will get to know the opinions of a group of students from the Marist schools of Contagem (Minas Gerais) and Balsas (Maranhão). They address social and political issues.

Before reading the testimonials, let us look at one of the recommendations the UN presented to Brazil in its last review: *"Take more effective action to address the problem of social and economic inequalities, particularly in the areas of health, education and unemployment for the population of urban and rural areas"* (Recommendation 154, submitted by Malaysia).



*“The social inequality in the country is exorbitant, in such a way that it is situated in one of the worse places in the ranking of inequality and education. Our government has enough money to change the situation, and therefore, it is unacceptable that this country continues in a situation of total abandonment.*

*Brazil needs effective public policies, in order to be able to diminish inequalities, to invest in education from the very first years by means of projects addressed to the poor*

*population, oriented to effective results for the development of the population; the involvement of all the citizens is still necessary in the search for equality among the social classes.*

*A clear example is public education in the country that if this could make up for the needs and reach all, another type of school would not be necessary and much less with a system of fees to be paid.*

*Nobody can deny that education is, no doubt, the basis of everything, especially of persons and of the most humble places. Education, certainly, is efficacious for a good social development of the country, trying to reduce the social and moral harm”.* **Bruna Rafaela, Luan Caio, Luana Araújo and Marcela Leite.**



*“Education in Brazil is experiencing a significant development, above all, after the Constitution of 1998. It is not easy to analyze it, since in it are integrated social, political and economic questions which present the chaotic image of instability in which is found the true state of education in the country. Beginning with the Constitution all children and young people found a place in the educational plan with the right to formal contents, schooling and the exercise of citizenship.*

*The conditions for the construction of a society with social justice depend on the universalization of quality primary education. One of the reasons why education does not progress as it should is corruption that affects so very much contributing to degradation in society. Instead of the Government using the resources that it has to improve education, as well as economy and society, those resources are absorbed by Congress in commissioned charges privileging themselves and leaving aside without structures those who really need support”.* **Jayanne Helisse Briano Araújo.**

You will find [other testimonials at the FMSI website](#).

As we did yesterday, we invite you to comment on this issue with your Marist community; at school with your pupils, colleagues and friends; with your family, etc. Bring about this debate in your classroom! Be creative!

You can leave your comments at the [FMSI Facebook](#) page.

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

***Stay tuned! See you tomorrow!***

