



November 20  
Universal Day of Children's Rights

10 - 9 - 8 - **7** - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

## GETTING TO KNOW THE UNITED NATIONS

This is the fourth day in our countdown towards the *Universal Children's Day* promoted by the United Nations. 10, 9, 8, 7... Today is November 12 and we will get to know this important international organization.

Each year, a group of students from the Marist school of [Carcavelos](#), Portugal, visits the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. [Isabel](#), who teaches in this school, has a Facebook page where you can exchange views about their annual visit.

The United Nations is an international organization that gathers 193 member States. Founded after the Second World War, it aims at maintaining peace and security in the world, encouraging friendly relations among the Nations, and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

You can watch a [video](#) about the main objectives, goals, history and curiosities of the UN, and visit their website [here](#).

We will also get to know the testimony of several Marist students regarding education and the interests of children, which the UN's *International Convention on the Rights of the Child* explains in detail.

### **Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 3, Best Interest of the Child**

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.

3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

*“We could improve the laws, which are centered more on the truthfulness of an adult at the moment of being in the tribunal to consider themes of children. Today, the opinion of these children is not taken into account or considered. With the approbation of the bill for the integral protection, the child’s opinion would be asked and his participation would be assured in decisions of private, public institutions, justice tribunals and the National Congress.*



*Today, the opinion of these children is not taken into account or considered. With the approbation of the bill for the integral protection, the child’s opinion would be asked and his participation would be assured in decisions of private, public institutions, justice tribunals and the National Congress.*

*We could also change the inequality since a great difference exists in the situation of children, from the time they are born until they reach adolescence; difference in opportunities and lack of protection of the children. For this reason this project would set a true precedent, since with this law innumerable themes could be touched upon from the sexual to the social,*

*such as violations and the lack of presence at the time of giving an opinion.*

*This law is necessary because today the Chilean society is concerned only of the children who are in social risk since our laws are paternalistic. For this reason it is necessary to support this project in order to change the juridical focus.*

*Finally, we can conclude ratifying that higher or greater interest for children and young people is fundamental. In order that they have value they have to be given juridical and administrative tools in order to assert their rights and improve society.”* **Nicolás Vergara Videla, 17 years, Institute Chacabuco, Los Andes, Chile**



*“We are aware that in our country a strategy that really guarantees quality basic education for many young people is philanthropy. An example of this are the students of the School Conde Marista Champagnat, which is a philanthropic school in which all the pupils have resources, qualified teachers, that is, a whole team so that we can obtain academic knowledge and also the education of character, ethics, morals and the vision of the world.*

*Iran agreed with the suggestion that children and adolescents have the right to receive education in their daily life. Therefore, the persons who direct or govern our country should strengthen all the programs and projects related with education and also, each one of us, as Brazilians should seek prosperity through supporting this type of existing initiatives and projects.*

*Besides, it is something of critical importance to implement, assume the commitment with education of Brazil, the expansion of these projects is very important, including philanthropy, of which we give witness that it is effective. The creation of new projects is necessary that involve children and*

*adolescents in the value of education, knowledge and the development of intelligence". Isaac Almeida, Lorryne Cristina, Khênia Souza and Zaine Mendes, Brazil.*

[Read more testimonials at the FMSI website.](#)

After all this reflection and information, you have plenty of materials to share with your pupils, colleagues and friends. However, let us read first articles 4 and 5 of the Convention [here](#).

FMSI would welcome your feedback on this topic. You can write your opinion 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.

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

