



November 20
Universal Day of Children's Rights

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

GETTING TO KNOW CHILE

Would you like you know more about the UN? Have you ever thought about visiting the UN offices or studying some of their topics? 10, 9, 8, 7, 6... Today is Friday, November 13.

Many people have expressed their opinion on the [FMSI Facebook](#) page. If you haven't done so yet, don't miss the opportunity. You can take some time during the weekend.

Today we are visiting another country located in South America. We are concretely referring to Chile. Learn more about this beautiful country [here](#).

Yesterday you read a testimony from a Chilean teenager regarding the Best Interests of the Child. We will discuss this issue and others later in this mail.

Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 12

1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.
2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

As in the case of Guatemala and Brazil, the United Nations evaluated the implementation of human rights in Chile in 2013.

The evaluation resulted in several recommendations, among which we chose the following: *“Pass an integral protection law and establish an independent Children’s Ombudsman according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child”*.

A number of students from three Marist schools in Chile sent us their testimonies. We have chosen two: Loreto Rojas from Champagnat School (Villa Alemana) and Javiera Oyarzo Navarrete from Chacabuco Institute (Los Andes City).



“The most important thing is that my country should fulfill what it has offered and favors and approves the law of integral protection of boys, girls and adolescents that the rights be truly respected, our rights. To be able to enjoy our childhood becomes a need today.

If I had the opportunity to be in charge of the national authority I would state that if the previous would be fulfilled exactly and would not be only an offering, false hopes, it would really bring about a change. It would be good if the adults would watch that it was kept. In this way

violence would decrease, rights would be respected, good persons would be formed and we would not continue the cycle of vulnerability which affects, I believe, more seriously, the little ones.

Now if they ask me what I can do about this, I would say to privilege the well-being of children, help in any possible way, denounce if there is ill treatment, be a human being who can be trusted and offer my support.” Loreto Figuroa Rojas, 15 years, Colegio Champagnat, Villa Alemana.



“I believe that one of the most important commitments that the State of Chile assumes is to establish an independent defender of childhood who can mediate among the different parts in which children and young persons of the country are the participants.

To watch or be attentive not only to give protection in the case of abandonment, of danger situations and of risk in which many children live, but also giving them attention, listening and taking into account their opinion, is fundamental for their growth and for the future of the country.

The law of integral protection would also be a good measure since it would go hand in hand with the defender of childhood.

It is convenient to point out the importance to create a good conscience, not only in adults to listen with respect and attention but also that of children, where they feel protected, where they can freely give their opinion, seeing that they contribute something to the country and that they want to work and improve things around them.

A person who is listened to knows that there are places around him to dialogue and would want to participate in that.

Even if this phrase is repeated much “children are the future”, if we invest in the future, in practices of protection for those who are being formed, it will be possible to grow as thinking persons who have the desire and wish for innovation around them.

Chile would undergo gradual or slow changes in time, on the one side to know how to dialogue to resolve problems that arise. Another one, the protection that children can feel in situations of risk and lastly the overcoming and improvement of those to whom no possibilities have been given or external factors have not allowed them to make their own decisions.

I believe that the school could be one of the places to develop projects for childhood insertion, educational aides and prevention means.

As pupils we can contribute through the center of pupils and activities related with social insertion and as a place of encounter with other realities.” **Javiera Oyarzo Navarrete, 15 years, Institute Chacabuco, Los Andes.**

You can [read more testimonials on the FMSI website](#).

Do you know the Children’s Rights Protection Law of your country?

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!

Please leave a comment 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.

We wish you a happy weekend. You will receive another email on Monday.

