



November 20
Universal Day of Children's Rights

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

GETTING TO KNOW THE FMSI

How was your weekend? This can be more than a simple question, don't you think? 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5... Today it is Monday, November 16. We are beginning the second week of preparation to celebrate the *International Day of the Child*. As you know, it will take place on Friday, November 20.

Last week we looked at the testimonies of our Marist companions from Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, and read something about the UN. Today we present you with the *Marist International Solidarity Foundation* (FMSI). Our foundation itself is like a child. FMSI's vision consists in "*seeing the world through the eyes of poor children*" by telling their story, transforming our hearts, and changing their life.

We would also like you to learn more about [FMSI's Mission](#). The [Foundation's webpage](#) will tell you about the things we are doing in favor of the *Rights of the Child*. Choose your language on our website and browse it freely.

Our homepage always brings you the [latest news](#). We have also published all the testimonies of Marist students regarding the celebration of the *International Day of the Child* on November 20. See for yourself. FMSI has offices in Geneva, Rome and [Santiago de Chile](#).

Today we bring you three other testimonies of Marist students. As in the previous cases, the testimonies have to do with the UN recommendations to their country during the *Universal Periodic Review* that takes place every four years. This is one of the FMSI tasks in Geneva. Students explain the situation of education, health and poverty in their country.

Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 28, the Right to Education

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:

- a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;

- b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;
- c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;
- d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children;
- e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention.

3. States Parties shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.



“Dear friends, as you already know, a child is every human being who is less than 18 years of age, therefore, we are children. We have the same desire, the same sentiment but we are still under the influence of our parents and of our neighbors. The reality is that certain children do not have their own rights especially the children who live in under developed or in developing countries, like in my country; in Madagascar, this is practically in the South.

On the Western side of the Island, the children suffer; they will never have their rights as a child. The parents do not work and the children do not go to school, they suffer from hunger... but the Government does not react, and does not help them. However, children have their own rights. They deserve to go to school, to dress properly, not to work too hard physically... Briefly, the majority of the children who live in my country do not really have the rights that they deserve, but what is it that we can do?” **AVOTRINIAINA Myriam Euphénie, 15 years, Madagascar.**



Gabriel de Andrade da Silva and Joel Lefler de Oliveira Junior, Casa Marista de Vila Velha, ES, Brazil.

*Elderly people, adolescents and children,
Brazil wants hope,
Society can no longer bear it,
In the queue of the hospital,
They suffer with the violence,
To remain here I cannot bear it,
To see a child suffer because of nourishment,
The dream of a better Brazil,
I do not want to place my hope in the dust,
Today I woke up and saw my Brazil finishing,
I will try to find better days,
Someone who will help me believe
That things are going to change.
God is faithful, and it is noticed
Happiness is a struggle
And education is our option.*



*“Education is the fundamental base for every right, as well as for every employment. We know that from integral education values are born, values which are fostered not only in one’s own life, but also in that of others and from every academic education opportunities of work are born, for a sustainable economic wellbeing.
Therefore, a person with values, a person who knows the rights, his own as well as those of others, has the capacity to transmit his integrity to others!” Sergio León Urrutia, ITECK, Chichicastenango, Guatemala.*

What do you make of the testimonies from Myriam, Sergio and Gabriel and Lefler? Young people always find and innovative ways of denouncing social problems. Does the same happen in your country? We also invite you to read what the Convention says about health in [article 24](#). You could mention this issue to your friends and acquaintances.

Remember that you can leave your comments at the [FMSI Facebook](#) page.

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

Stay tuned! See you tomorrow!

