
III – Respect for Parents

The nurturing care of a loving mother and father can be the most significant contribution toward building a world of peace. It is primarily the responsibility of the parents to mold the character of the future citizens of the world. It is the parents who have the greatest interest in the long-term well-being of their children. All levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions should respect and support the vital role of parents.

Words which **define and respect the parental role:**

- “parents have a prior right”
- “the child’s right to know and be cared for by his or her parents”
- “that responsibility lies in the first place with the parents”
- “respect for the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents”
- “respecting their cultural values and religious beliefs, . . . particularly parents”
- “the role of parents and legal guardians in the upbringing of children”
- “acknowledge and promote the central role of families, parents and other legal guardians”
- “respect for the liberty of parents”
- “The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents”

Words suggesting that “others” can **usurp the role of the parent:**

- “in cooperation with relevant interested parties” (*which could include anyone*)
- “efforts of parents, other care-givers and communities to nurture and care for children” (?)
- “in full partnership with youth, parents, families, educators and health-care providers” (?)
- “unless it is considered not to be in the best interest of the child” (*who decides?*)

Words suggesting **child rights that could exclude parents** (*ignoring the parents “prior right”*):

- “rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent”
- “in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child”
- “the child’s right to confidentiality and privacy”
- “in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention”
- “youth should be involved in the design and implementation of such information and services”
- “the adolescent, and their right to reproductive health education, information and care”

Consensus words used to **modify paragraphs – to insure involvement of parents:**

- “with proper regard for parental guidance and responsibilities”
- “recognizing the rights and duties of parents to provide appropriate direction and guidance”
- “with the guidance and support of their parents”
- “with appropriate direction and guidance of parents”
- “including parents with respect to their children's education”
- “taking into account the rights and duties of parents”
- “should involve the active participation of parents and families”

PARENTS – PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

Children’s Summit, 1874
“**The family has the primary responsibility** for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. **Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture and care for children in a family environment.**”

Children Summit +10, 15.....472
“The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. **The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. . . .**”

Universal Declaration, Article 26-343
“**Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.**”

CRC, Article 7-158
“The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the **right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.**”

CRC, Article 18-159
“. . . **Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child.** The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.”

CRC, Article 27-260
“**The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility** to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.”

Children Summit +10, 15.....472
“The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. **The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family.** All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and **render appropriate assistance to parents, . . .**”

ROLE OF PARENTS

Children Summit +10, 6471
“We recognize and support parents and families or, as the case may be, legal guardians as the primary caretakers of children, and we will strengthen their capacity to provide the **optimum care, nurturing and protection.**”

Cairo +5: 73-d.....354
“Acknowledge and promote the central role of families, parents and other legal guardians in **educating their children and shaping their attitudes . . .**”

Children Summit, 20-572
“We will work for respect for the role of the family in providing for children and will support the efforts of parents, other care-givers and communities to **nurture and care for children, from the earliest stages of childhood through adolescence. . . .**”

Beijing, 29.....218
“. . . the role of parents in the family and in the **upbringing of children** should be acknowledged. . . .”

CEDAW, (introduction, paragraph 13)65
“Bearing in mind the . . . role of both parents in the family and in the **upbringing of children . . . requires a sharing of responsibility between men and women . . .**”

Cairo +5: 48350
“. . . The role of family members, especially parents and other legal guardians, in **strengthening the self-image, self-esteem and status and in protecting the health and well-being of girls** should be enhanced and supported.”

Beijing +5: 82-c394
“. . . acknowledge the social significance of maternity and motherhood, parenting, **the role of parents and legal guardians in the upbringing of children** and caring for other family members. . . .”

2030 Agenda, 25578
“We will strive to **provide children and youth with a nurturing environment** for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, helping our countries to reap the demographic dividend including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families.”

Children Summit +10, 32-2474
“Parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers have the **primary role and responsibility for the well-being of children**, and must be supported in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.”

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

- CRC, Article 5.....58
 “States Parties shall **respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, . . .”
- CRC, Article 14-259
 “States Parties shall **respect the rights and duties of the parents** and, when applicable, legal guardians, to **provide direction to the child . . .**”
- ICPD, 7.45146
 “**Recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for adolescents to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, **appropriate direction and guidance** in sexual and reproductive matters, . . .”
- ICPD, 13.22166
 “. . . emphasis must be put on meeting the needs of underserved population groups, including adolescents, **taking into account the rights and responsibilities of parents . . .**”
- Social Summit, 35-c.....194
 “Ensuring full and equal access to social services, especially education, legal services and health-care services for women of all ages and children, **recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for children, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;”
- Social Summit Decl., Commitment 6-1181
 “Establish or strengthen both school-based and community-based health education programmes for children . . . **recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for children”
- Beijing, 107-e.....231
 “Prepare and disseminate accessible information . . . taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, as well as the **responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance . . .”
- Beijing, 107-g231
 “Recognize the specific needs of adolescents and implement specific appropriate programmes, such as education and information on sexual and reproductive health issues and on sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, taking into account the rights of the child and the **responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** as stated in paragraph 107 (e) above;”
- Beijing, 262.....261
 “. . . taking into account the rights of the child and the **responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** as stated in paragraph 267 below.”
- Beijing, 267261
 “. . . taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, as well as the **responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights . . .”
- Habitat II, 13276
 “The needs of children and youth, particularly with regard to their living environment, have to be taken fully into account. . . . Parents and other persons legally responsible for children have **responsibilities, rights and duties**, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to address these needs.”
- Beijing +5, 79-f.....393
 “Design and implement programmes. . . taking into account their right to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent and the **responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** and legal guardians to provide in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child appropriate direction and guidance . . .”
- Children Summit +10, 37-10476
 “Strengthen early childhood development by providing appropriate services and **support to parents**, . . . to ensure children's physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cognitive development.”
- ICPD, 11.24.....159
 “Age-appropriate education, especially for adolescents, . . . **taking into account the rights and responsibilities of parents** and the needs of adolescents. . . . should involve the active participation of parents and families . . .”

CHILD’S RIGHT TO PARENTAL GUIDANCE

CRC, Article 7-158
 “The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the **right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.**”

ICPD, Chapter II, Principle 11130
 “. . . The child has the right to standards of living adequate for its well-being and the right to the highest attainable standards of health, and the right to education. **The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents, . . .**”

Beijing 274-b262
 “. . . take measures to ensure that a child is registered immediately after birth and has the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents;**”

Disabilities, Article 18-2545
 “Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by their parents.**”

CRC, Article 5.....58
 “States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents . . . to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, **appropriate direction and guidance . . .**”

ICPD, Chapter II, Principle 10130
 “. . . The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his or her **education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with the parents.**”

ICPD, 6.15139
 “. . . Access to, as well as confidentiality and privacy of, these services must be ensured **with the support and guidance of their parents . . .**”

Cairo +5, 73-c354
 “. . . Adolescents and youth themselves should be fully involved in the design and implementation of such information and services, with **proper regard for parental guidance and responsibilities. . .**”

PARENTS AND EDUCATION

Universal Declaration, Article 26-343
 “**Parents have a prior right** to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”

ICESCR, Article 13-34
 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have **respect for the liberty of parents . . . to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.**

ICCPR, Article 18-3.....51
 “. . . **respect for the liberty of parents** and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools, . . . and to **ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.**”

ICPD, Chapter II, Principle 10130
 “. . . The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his or her education and guidance; **that responsibility lies in the first place with the parents.**”

Social Summit Decl., Commitment 6-1182
 “Establish or strengthen both school-based and community-based health education programmes for children, . . . **recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for children . . .”

ICPD, 11.9.....158
 “To be most effective, education about population issues must begin in primary school and continue through all levels of formal and non-formal education, **taking into account the rights and responsibilities of parents . . .** population education projects should **emphasize consultation with parents . . .**”

ICPD, 11.24.....159
 “Age-appropriate education, especially for adolescents, . . . **taking into account the rights and responsibilities of parents** and the needs of adolescents. . . should involve the active participation of parents and families . . .”

CRC, Article 29-1-c61
 “States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: . . . The development of **respect for the child's parents**, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, . . .”

FATHER RESPONSIBILITY

Children Summit +10, 24473
 “We will further promote the shared responsibility of both parents in education and in the raising of children, and will **make every effort to ensure that fathers have opportunities to participate in their children's lives.**”

Beijing +5, 60388
 “**Motherhood and fatherhood** and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family and in the upbringing of children and the importance of all family members to the family's well-being . . . In order to achieve full partnership, both in public and private spheres, **both women and men must be enabled to reconcile and share equally** work responsibilities and family responsibilities.”

ICPD, 4.27136
 “Special efforts should be made to **emphasize men's shared responsibility and promote their active involvement** . . . shared control and contribution to family income, children's education, health and nutrition; and recognition and promotion of the equal value of children of both sexes. **Male responsibilities in family life must be included in the education of children** from the earliest ages. . . .”

2030 Agenda, target 5.4582
 “. . . promotion of **shared responsibility within the household and the family** as nationally appropriate”

Children Summit +10, 24473
 “**We also recognize the need to address the changing role of men in society**, . . . We will further promote the shared responsibility of both parents in education and in the raising of children, and will **make every effort to ensure that fathers have opportunities to participate in their children's lives.**

ICPD, 4.28136
 “. . . Governments should consider changes in law and policy to **ensure men's responsibility to and financial support for their children and families.** . . .”

ICPD, 5.4137
 “. . . special consideration should be given to increasing the earning power of all adult members . . . and **stronger legal enforcement of male parental financial responsibilities.**”

SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

ICPD, 5.3136
 “Governments, in cooperation with employers, should provide and promote means to facilitate compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities, **especially for single-parent households with young children.** Such means could include health insurance and social security, day-care centres and facilities for breast-feeding mothers within the work premises, kindergartens, part-time jobs, paid parental leave, paid maternity leave, flexible work schedules, and reproductive and child health services.”

Social Summit, 39-h196
 “Improving the condition of the single parent in society and ensuring that **single-parent families** and female-headed or female-maintained households receive the social support they need, including support for adequate housing and child care.”

ICPD, 5.4137
 “. . . **Particular attention should be paid to needy single parents, especially those who are responsible wholly or in part for the support of children** and other dependents, . . .”

Social Summit +5, 49-c369
 “Assisting women and men in reconciling employment and family responsibilities, inter alia, by flexible working arrangements, including parental voluntary part-time employment and work-sharing, as well as accessible and affordable quality child-care and dependant-care facilities, **paying particular attention to the needs of single-parent households.**

ICPD, 5.6137
 “Governments should maintain and further develop mechanisms to document changes and undertake studies on family composition and structure, especially on the prevalence of one-person households, and **single-parent and multigenerational families.**”

ICPD, 5.7137
 “Families are sensitive to strains induced by social and economic changes. It is essential to grant particular assistance to families in difficult life situations. Conditions have worsened for many families in recent years, . . . **There are increasing numbers of vulnerable families, including single-parent families headed by women, poor families** with elderly members or those with disabilities, refugee and displaced families, and families with members affected by AIDS”

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

Children Summit +10, 46-c.....480
 “. . . build and **strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to provide a supportive environment for orphans . . . to protect orphans and vulnerable children from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, trafficking and loss of inheritance.**”

HIV/AIDS, 65.....447
 “. . . build and strengthen governmental, **family and community capacities to provide a supportive environment for orphans . . .**”

Millennium Declaration, 19.....441
“To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.”

ICPD, 5.13137
“Governments should assist single-parent families, and pay special attention to the needs of widows and orphans. All efforts should be made to assist the building of family-like ties in especially difficult circumstances, for example, those involving street children.”

Ageing, 103466
“In many parts of the world, especially Africa, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has forced older women, already living in difficult circumstances, to take on the added burden of caring for children and grandchildren orphaned by AIDS. At a time when it is more normal for adult children to look after their ageing parents, many older persons find themselves with the unexpected responsibility of caring for frail children or with the task of becoming sole parents to grandchildren.”

Social Summit +5, 97-f373
“. . . Providing social and educational support to communities, households, orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Children Summit Declaration, 20-572
“We will work for respect for the role of the family in providing for children and will support the efforts of parents, other care-givers and communities to nurture and care for children, from the earliest stages of childhood through adolescence. We also recognize the special needs of children who are separated from their families.”

REUNITE CHILDREN WITH PARENTS

Children Summit +10, 44-29479
“Give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification, and continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children.”

Racism, 49488
“We highlight the importance of creating conditions conducive to greater harmony, tolerance and respect between migrants . . . We underline that family reunification has a positive effect on integration and emphasize the need for States to facilitate family reunion;

CRC, Article 10-158
“In accordance with the obligation of States Parties . . . applications by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification shall be dealt with by States Parties in a positive, humane and expeditious manner. . . .”

ICPD, 10.9154
“. . . The family reunification of documented migrants is an important factor in international migration. It is also important to protect documented migrants and their families from racism, ethnocentrism and xenophobia, and to respect their physical integrity, dignity, religious beliefs and cultural values.”

ICPD, 10.12155
“. . . all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants. . . .”

Social Summit, 39-e.....196
“Improving the situation and protecting the rights of children in especially difficult circumstances, . . . as well as provided with the necessary social and psychological assistance for their healthy reintegration into society and for family reunification consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and substituting education for child work;”

Beijing, 147-k241
“Ensure that the human rights of refugee and displaced women are protected and that refugee and displaced women are made aware of these rights; ensure that the vital importance of family reunification is recognized;”