UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

# YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

## Early childhood education, free pre-primary education and free secondary education

Hi!

## Hello from the United Nations Human Rights Office!

We want to hear from you! In September 2025, representatives of governments, organisations led by children and working on children's rights, other related organisations, and children themselves will meet in Geneva, Switzerland, to talk about **early childhood education, free pre-primary education** and **free secondary education**. We are working to ensure that children's views about these topics are included in the discussion. It's important that children, like you, can contribute with your thoughts and ideas. We want to make sure that your voices are heard because they are very important to make sure your rights are respected!

## How will my views be used and what comes next?

- Stay tuned!
- We will prepare a compilation of children's views, which will be posted online in July-August 2025 and be shared with adults working to protect children's rights and attending the meeting in September, like governments, organisations focused on children's rights, and United Nations bodies.
- An official update of the meeting and a child-friendly summary version will be published in June-July 2026. You can also regularly check the UN Human Rights Office's website for news.

## Here's what we'd love to hear from you about:

**1**

**Educational level**

- Do you attend pre-primary education (e.g. kindergarten, crèche, pre-school or similar)?
- Do you attend primary education?
- Do you attend secondary education?

**2** What makes it difficult for children to attend pre-school and how does this affect them?

**3** What makes it difficult for children to attend secondary school and how does this affect them?

**4** Do some children have a harder time / greater challenges attending public pre-primary and secondary school than other children?

**5** What should governments do to make sure that all children can attend public pre-primary and public secondary education for free?

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# What is it helpful to know before you answer our questions?

## What are children's rights?

Children's rights are promises that governments have made to children and young people under 18 years old to help them enjoy a good life in all places where they live and stay safe from danger. The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments. All the rights are connected, they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.




## What is the right to education?



One of these rights is the right to education. All children and young people have the right to education no matter who they are: for example, their race, gender or disability; if they're in detention, or if they're a refugee. Education is important for children's development and health. It helps them to keep them safe and well, and to prepare them for a good job and to be part of society. However, according to UNESCO, 251 million children and young people around the world are not going to school.

## How to share your ideas with us?



- Please send your thoughts by **June 8, 2025** to this e-mail: ohchr-children@un.org (cc: helen.griffiths@un.org)
- You can also submit pictures if you wish to.
- Please make sure your response is no more than 5 pages long!

## Any questions?

You can contact Helen at the UN Human Rights Office:
helen.griffiths@un.org /
ohchr-children@un.org

## Staying safe

We will not share any information you send to us with anyone else, nor your personal or contact details.

Please do not include your last name in any communications; your first name is all we need. This helps us to protect your right to privacy.