

# RIGHTS OF CHILDREN



# RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

## Not to be discriminated

No child shall be discriminated against based on theirs or their guardians race, skin colour, gender, language, political (or any other) opinion, national origin, related family, native island, social status, disability, or financial status or any other factors.

## Right to life and growth

Every Child has the absolute right to life and growth in every possible sense. Guardians, family, individuals within the community, and the State have a responsibility to ensure the Child to remains in a good health and protects them from harm and abuse.

## Right to have your interests put first

A child's best interest must always be given priority, taking into account the following general criteria

- ✓ the child's opinion
- ✓ the child's individuality
- ✓ importance of the Child remaining in a family environment and maintaining the family ties
- ✓ care, protection and safety
- ✓ health
- ✓ education
- ✓ social or other status

## Right to express opinions

Every Child who has the capability to form their own opinions shall have the right to express themselves, taking into account their age, and developing capabilities.

## Right to care and protection

Every Child has the right to protection and care needed from their guardians, family, community and the State for growth. As a general rule, the guardians provides this protection. However,

the state bears the responsibility to protect children who are deprived of this right.

### **Protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse**

Every Child has the right to be protected from sexual exploitation and from being sexually abused.

### **Protection from violence, abuse and negligence**

Every Child has the right to be protected from all abuses that hinder their growth. This includes of physical and psychological violence, negligence, cruelty, exploitation and sexual abuse. Inaction towards the plight or sufferings of Children going through violence and abuse is also deemed violence towards those Children.

### **Protection from immoral matters of social and cultural nature**

Every Child has the right to be protected from social and cultural matters that may have a negative impact on their interests, reputation and growth. In tandem, the State bears the responsibility to monitor this.

### **Registration of live birth, and the right to name and nationality**

As soon as they are born, every Child has the right to have their birth registered and be given a name acceptable under the law. Every child born to a Maldivian citizen has the citizenship of the Maldives. And no Child who is a Maldivian citizen may be stripped of their Maldivian citizenship.

### **Right to maintain identity**

Every Child has the right to have a record of the official information of their identity, to have such information protected, and the right to be protected from acts that may threaten their personal identity.

### **Right to know the parents, and to receive their care**

Every Child has the right to know who their parents are, and if the parents are alive, to grow up under their care (unless it is not possible to obtain this information).

### **Right to seek and obtain information**

Every Child has the right to seek and obtain information suitable for their age group, from national and international sources, regarding their social, spiritual and disciplinary well-being, in order to achieve physical and mental growth.

### **Rights for children with disabilities**

Every child with disabilities has the right to live a full life, with equal opportunity to be part of the community. They also have the right to make decisions for themselves, without compromising their dignity. All children with disabilities have a right to special protection and care from their family, community and the State.

### **Right to remain in good health and the right to adequate healthcare**

Every child with an illness has the right to the facilities required for a cure to the illness where they fall ill, and to the best available healthcare and services required for physical and mental health.

### **Quality of life and social protection**

Every Child has the right to a quality of life at an adequate level in order to achieve physical, mental, spiritual, disciplinary and social advancement.

### **Right to education**

Every Child living in the Maldives has the right to and it is compulsory for Children's parents and the State to educate Children living in the Maldives in elementary education, primary education and upbringing.

## **Right to obtain and transact from property**

Every Child has the right to obtain, own, inherit, and transact from property in accordance with the law.