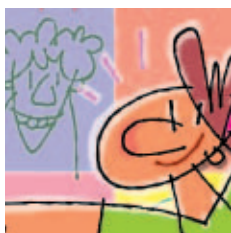


Children's Rights

FUNDACIÓN
LUCÍA
Justo.RR





Children's Rights

Illustrated by Justo RR

FUNDACIÓN LUCÍA

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All children in the world have rights.

In this book we want to explain to you the history of children's rights. These are rights that protect us. They are for everybody, even for children and young persons who live with HIV.

"Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give."
- *The Rights of the Child*, 1924.



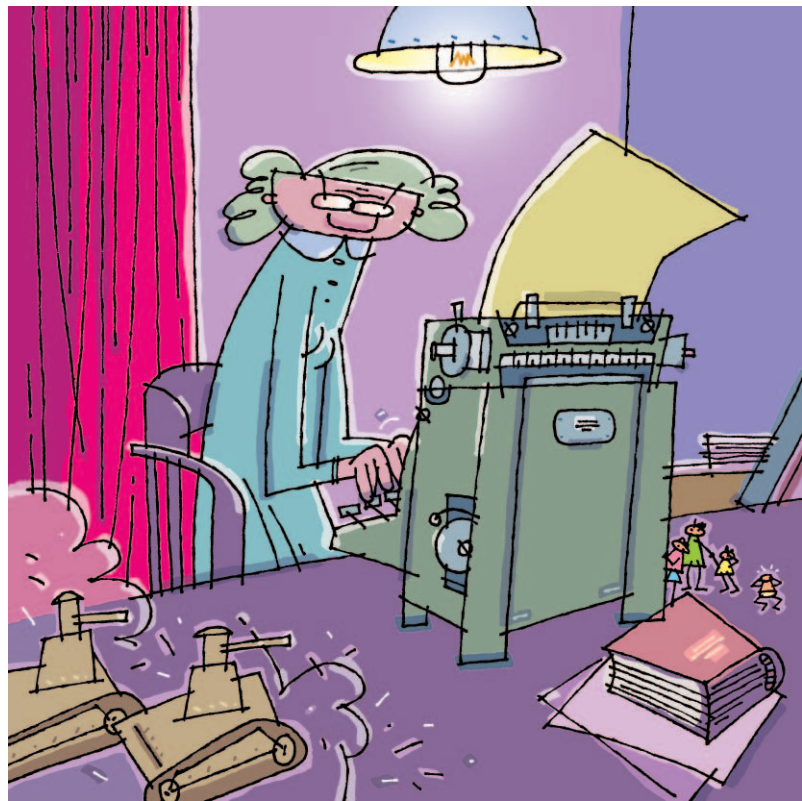
In 1913, a lady named Eglantine Jebb went as a volunteer to Macedonia, which was at war, to help people who were suffering. After she came back, she also helped in the First World War. When that war was over and after seeing so much despair in innocent children, she and her sister Dorothy created an organisation to help them.

In 1924 in Geneva, Eglantine wrote the first declaration of children's rights, which advocated for the necessity of special protection for children. This document has been the basis of other declarations for the defence of children's rights.

After few years, on 20th November 1959, many countries came together at the United Nations to create the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, a document explaining the 10 basic principles of protection for children.

Some years later, on 20th November 1989, it was rewritten to reaffirm the necessity of giving children special care because they are defenceless. A number of 54 articles were presented with rights that go from before birth to adulthood. A few extensions have been made since then to cover all aspects.

Currently, this document has been signed by all countries in the world except two: the United States of America and Somalia, although they have announced their intention to do so soon.



It is important to know the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in order to demand its fulfilment.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20th November 1959.

PRINCIPLE 1

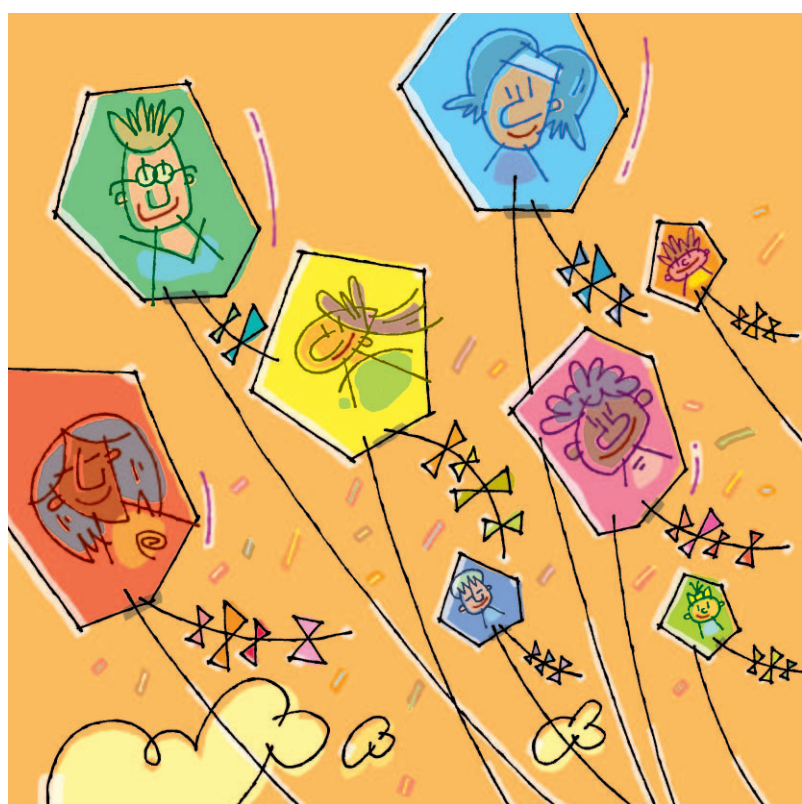
The child shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration. Every child, without any exception whatsoever, shall be entitled to these rights, without distinction or discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, whether of himself or of his family.

This implies that whoever the child or the family might be, all children of the world have the same rights, even if they have a disease like HIV.

PRINCIPLE 2

The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.

Lucía and all other children have the right to services that cover their physical and mental health, as well as the right to receive equal treatment without discrimination. All initiatives need to share a commitment to the child's interests. Children also have the right to receive information on all that affects them, participate and think regarding the care they receive. This means that their intimacy needs to be respected and that information about what affects them cannot be released.



PRINCIPLE 3

The child shall be entitled from his birth to a name and a nationality.

Lucía and all other children have the right to an identity. That's why our parents give us names and register us in our city and country; it's recognition of our existence.

PRINCIPLE 4

The child shall enjoy the benefits of social security. He shall be entitled to grow and develop in health; to this end, special care and protection shall be provided both to him and to his mother, including adequate pre-natal and post-natal care. The child shall have the right to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services.

Lucía and all children have the right to receive medical services every time they may need it to be able to grow strong and healthy. The child and his or her mother have to be taken care of and receive special care before, during and after labour so that all children can be born healthy.

All children have the right to have food, a home, games and a doctor or hospital every time they may need it.



PRINCIPLE 5

The child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his particular condition.

Lucía and all other children have the right to visit a doctor or professional if needed.

PRINCIPLE 6

The child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, needs love and understanding. He shall, wherever possible, grow up in the care and under the responsibility of his parents, and, in any case, in an atmosphere of affection and of moral and material security; a child of tender years shall not, save in exceptional circumstances, be separated from his mother. Society and the public authorities shall have the duty to extend particular care to children without a family and to those without adequate means of support. Payment of State and other assistance towards the maintenance of children of large families is desirable.

Lucía and all other children have the right to receive love and understanding. A child needs to grow with love and security. Society and the authorities have to take care of children who don't have a family.



PRINCIPLE 7

The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least elementary stages. He shall be given an education which will promote his general culture and enable him, on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society.

The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents.

The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation, which should be directed to the same purposes as education; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right.

Lucía and all other children have the right to receive free education, to go to school and have the necessary knowledge to grow.

They also have the right to play and have fun.

PRINCIPLE 8

The child shall in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief.

Lucía, like all other children, has the right to receive help when necessary. It's not always like that in the case of children infected and affected by HIV, but it is essential that we fight so that all children around the world receive the help they need.



PRINCIPLE 9

The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form. The child shall not be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age; he shall in no case be caused or permitted to engage in any occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education, or interfere with his physical, mental or moral development.

Neither Lucia nor any other children have to work when they're under age because it can harm their health, their education and their physical, mental and moral development. Children cannot be mistreated or exploited.

PRINCIPLE 10

The child shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other form of discrimination. He shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood, and in full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men.

Lucia, like all other children, has to be protected against any form of discrimination, including his or her medical diagnosis or the diagnosis of any family member.

Children have to be educated to learn how to be tolerant, have good relationships with others and always help each another.



"Children's rights are written in people's hearts, and they were there before legislators prepared the draft of the first declaration," affirms Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Children are children anywhere in the world, whatever they might have and wherever they might live, and that's why all of them have the right to be treated in the best possible way and receive the best.

HIV-positive people who live in wealthy countries like ours enjoy good for taking care of themselves, but there are many other places where people are not as lucky. In many countries where there are fewer resources, infection with HIV can become a catastrophe. There are also people who are scared and poorly informed, and that's why they don't treat HIV-positive adults and children with respect. Not all children are as lucky as Lucia. Many are discriminated against, and that is something we all need to fight to stop. In these stories, Lucia has explained to you how to take care of an infected child who lives here, but in many other countries of the world the reality is totally different.

Remember that we all need to be very careful to avoid HIV infection. That means that we need to take measures to not get infected and to not infect other people. We need to take the necessary measures to control transmission channels, which is not the same as taking measures against people.

All people and all children need love, respect and understanding because we all want to be treated that way and because we all have the right to it.



Since 1970, more than 39.4 million people have lost their lives due to HIV infection and it is estimated that 800,000 children under the age of 15 were infected in 2004, the majority from mother-to-child transmission during pregnancy, labour and breastfeeding.

All over the world, families infected with HIV have to face the situation by themselves because they're afraid of rejection. In many countries they have to suffer from a lack of help. Any child who doesn't have protection since the moment he or she is conceived is already in danger of being infected with HIV. There are many countries where most adults also have it, where there is no medication and no food, and where children can't go to school and are pointed at and rejected. On many occasions, they end up as orphans and without help. In other countries, even though they might have the resources, they are not always conscious of transmission channels and they do not protect themselves like they should, because there are people who don't understand and don't take what we explained in these stories into account.



For this reason, it is important to think about what we can do.

We can say that inside a child's heart there's always the best.

Always give the best of yourself to others and remember how you would like to be treated: with love.

We already said that we all have a heart that contains the best of us, and this heart it is stored in a small box that is called the body.

According to the box you have, you might need special care. Take care of the box that has been given to you; love it, make it better, accept it and fill it with good things. Save all that is important for you and only show whatever you want to share with people you trust.

One important thing! People responsible for health all over the world have said that the aims of the next few years concerning HIV are:

- 1 Avoiding new infections, and specifically avoiding the transmission of HIV from parents to children.
- 2 Giving out more services to care for children and parents who live with HIV/AIDS.
- 3 Guaranteeing protection, attention and help for orphans, children and families who live threatened by HIV/AIDS.





ACTIVITIES

- 1 Search the newspaper for a story related to child exploitation and make a short summary of it.
Think about the reasons why this is happening.
- 2 Write about a case of discrimination that you know and explain the reasons.
- 3 Pay attention to the following data and answer:

Number of people who lived with HIV in 2004				
Africa	The Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania
25,9 million	12,1 million	8,2 million	2,0 million	0,03 million

Number of people who died of AIDS in 2004				
Africa	The Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania
2,32 million	157.000	541.000	66.500	700

- Why is the mortality rate so high in Africa?
 - Why is the mortality rate in Europe much lower than in Asia or Africa?
- 4 Do you think that the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child are respected in all countries?
Think about the answer and give an example of situations that show the violation of some of the articles of the Declaration.
 - 5 Why do you think that some countries did not sign the Declaration of the Rights of the Child?

NOTE FOR TEACHERS

These stories are written to explain to children between 7 and 13 years of age what is known about the HIV infection and AIDS: its origins; how it is thought that new pathogens appeared affecting humans; the transmission channels of this disease; the measures to prevent it, and also its clinical, social and emotional treatments.

These stories do not correspond to the story of the real Lucia who gave her name to the Foundation.

Here are some additional aspects to take into consideration:

- 1 Since some of the topics covered in these stories are difficult for children to understand, we recommend the participation of an adult to lead the reading and clarify and comment on any questions.
- 2 The stories take place here, in Spain. Thanks to access to treatment, the quality of life for infected persons is generally good, but these circumstances are not the same in the rest of the world. There are many countries where HIV infection means certain death in a short time period.
- 3 The treatments described in these stories are the same ones that were available when they were written. But other, more complicated treatments are being developed, and we hope that these treatments will be able to improve current ones.
- 4 One of the main aims of these stories is to diminish the social stigma surrounding the disease and the people infected with it via an objective approach based on information.
- 5 All stories were written to give answers and work on different questions when children ask to talk about these topics.
This material was developed to support adults when they talk with children about HIV infection. For children in general, the material is a basic tool of information and knowledge towards preventing infection. For affected children, there are stories that can be read before their own diagnosis or a family member's diagnosis is known: the second story, "How Does My Body Work?", the fourth story, "Visiting the Hospital", the fifth story, "Trusting and Sharing" and the sixth story, "A Normal Day". All these stories are very useful for answering questions that children may ask when the topic is discussed with freedom.
- 6 All stories contain a minimum of 5 exercises for afterthought and consolidating knowledge.

- 1

The Family

We all have a family and a history.
- 2

How Does My Body Work?

Anatomical and physiological concepts necessary to better understand how to take care of our health and practice good prevention.
- 3

The History of HIV

This story goes over the origins of this new infection, the discovery of the pathogen that causes it and its transmission channels.
- 4

Visiting the Hospital

To have a good understanding of our health, it is necessary that we have periodic check-ups.
- 5

Trusting and Sharing

Due to social rejection, infected people have a right to intimacy in order to avoid discrimination and mistreatment. It is important to mention that if this is taken to the extreme, it can cause loneliness, because we all need each other and need to relate with one another. In life it is always important to evaluate with whom you can and want to share your secrets.
- 6

A Normal Day

The daily activities of a child who takes medication are different, and like all children they sometimes have more needs than adults do.
- 7

My Friends at the Hospital

The lives of people who are infected with HIV are affected by many realities, all of which have been taken into consideration here.
- 8

Medication

This story explains drug mechanisms to hinder the progression of the disease, as well as the need to use different types of drugs.
- 9

The Future

A future with hope is life's bond. This story explains how infected children make their plans for the future, as well as the most common questions they ask.
- 10

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This section is on the vulnerability of children and young people, and their rights.

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