



THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA

Child Rights

The Issue

Children are made in the image of God, and are a gift from God.¹ However, children can be some of the most disempowered members of our societies. Children's rights are essential for their wellbeing and development, and when these rights are fully upheld, they contribute to healthier, more equitable communities.

Children's rights, protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), apply to all children under 18. These rights emphasise children's unique needs and vulnerabilities. They include provision rights (access to basic services like education and healthcare), protection rights (safeguards against harm and discrimination), and participation rights (the ability to express views and be involved in the decisions affecting them). It is important that children and young people understand these rights.

To ensure children thrive physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually, it is vital that those around them - especially duty bearers - understand and actively uphold these rights. In an international context, The Salvation Army's International Aid Department (SAID) supports this holistic development, recognising that children can only truly benefit from their rights in a society committed to respecting and protecting them.

¹ The Salvation Army International. (2025). Children and Young People. [Link](#)



How can I get involved?

- Take time to [learn](#) and understand more about children's vulnerabilities and rights, and share what you learn with others.
- [Get involved](#) in local community programs that support children.
- Communities overseas often lack access to fundamental rights like education, food, water and sanitation. This perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality, especially affecting children. By [giving](#) to Salvation Army initiatives, we can break these cycles and create a brighter future for children. You can donate [here](#).
- [Pray](#) for the kids you know and those you don't. Pray they would be given the opportunity to fully experience life, feeling loved and valued by their families and communities. Pray they are empowered to make meaningful contributions.

For more information...

- [The Salvation Army Australia - Information for children, young people, parents and carers](#)
- [The United Nations - Children](#)
- [The Salvation Army International - Children and Young People](#)
- [Child Friendly Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)