

Towards a UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

- 1923** Eglantyne Jebb, founder of Save the Children, drafts the five points of the first *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*.
- 1924** Jebb's Declaration is adopted by the League of Nations and becomes known as the *Declaration of Geneva*.
- 1948** The UN adopts the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, a document that implicitly includes the rights of children.
- 1959** The UN General Assembly adopts the ten point *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, a revised and extended version of Jebb's original Declaration constituting the first international commitment to children's civil and political rights and incorporating the guiding principle of working in children's best interests.
- 1979** To mark the twentieth anniversary of the 1959 *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, 1979 is designated International Year of the Child. During preparations for this year, the government of Poland proposes a new and binding children's rights convention be drafted and submits just such a draft to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1978. Consequently, a working group is established to consider the creation of a convention on the rights of the child.
- 1989** On 20 November 1989, the UN General Assembly adopts the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. This Convention enters into force as international law on 2 September 1990 following its ratification by the required 20 states.
- 1992** Ireland ratifies the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
- 1996** *First National Report of Ireland*, on its implementation of the UNCRC, is submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- 1998** Formal examination of the Report takes place by the Committee at a plenary hearing in January and Concluding Observations and Recommendations for Ireland are made.
- 2002** Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict entered into force.
- 2005** Ireland submits its Second National Report (due in 1999) to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- 2006** Formal examination of the Second Report takes place at a plenary hearing in June and Concluding Observations and Recommendations for Ireland are issued by the Committee.
- 2007** Ireland submits its First Report (due in 2004) on the Optional Protocol on armed conflicts (OPAC).
- 2008** Formal examination of the OPAC Report takes place in January and Concluding Observations and Recommendations for Ireland are issued by the Committee.
- 2008** A large number of international agencies begin campaigning to establish a communications/complaints mechanism to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which would provide legal remedies for children at international level.