

## U.N. Declaration of the Rights of the Child

The Right to:

1. affection, love and understanding.
2. adequate nutrition and medical care.
3. free education.
4. full opportunity for play and recreation.
5. a name and nationality.
6. special care if handicapped.
7. be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster.
8. learn to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities.
9. be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood.
10. enjoy these rights regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin.



### THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

The International Year of the Child (IYC) is concerned with all children in all countries, especially young children. Its major aims are to:

- \* encourage all countries, rich and poor, to review their programmes for the promotion of the well-being of children, and to mobilize support for national and local action programmes according to each country's conditions, needs and priorities;
- \* heighten awareness of children's special needs among decision-makers and the public;
- \* promote recognition of the vital link between programmes for children on the one hand, and economic and social progress on the other;
- \* spur specific, practical measures — with achievable goals — to benefit children, in both the short and long term on the national level.

The Year should also provide an opportunity to emphasize the intellectual, psychological and social development of children, in addition to their physical welfare.

Since 1979 is the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the IYC is an opportunity for each country to increase its efforts to implement those rights.

Special attention should be devoted to particularly disadvantaged children. Among the most vulnerable groups, for example, are young girls where they receive unequal treatment, slum children, children of migrant workers, abused children, orphaned children, refugee children, children of unwed mothers, children in poor rural areas, children exposed to drugs and crime, physically and mentally handicapped children, and the vast category of children suffering from malnutrition.

While programmes of national and local action remain the focal point of the Year, IYC should also stimulate new research on the needs of children and the widespread gathering and dissemination of research on child-related issues.

### **THE CHILD IS DEAD**

*The village has been emptied  
Of all the fighters.  
Riveted to his machine gun  
Whose blind fire-blasts  
Have killed the child,  
The killer shakes with fear  
In the shade of an old wall.*

*All is clear around:  
The sky,  
The sea,  
The laughing summer,  
The pines.*

*The killer has hurled far away  
Beyond the hills,  
His dress and his arms,  
His history and his laws,  
And he lay weeping  
At two steps from a fountain,  
In the shade of an orange tree.  
Near the corpse of the child.*

Andrée Chédid  
(trans. from French)