



# Children's Rights

## Diamond Nine Activity on The United Nations' "Declaration on The Rights of The Child" - Secondary level Ages Approx 11 - 16

A 'Diamond Nine' is an activity designed to stimulate discussion among a group of students.

- Below are the 9 'Rights' set out in the UN Declaration. Ask students to work in small groups, cut out the rights and order them into a diamond formation with one at the top, two in the next row, three in the middle row, two in the next row and one in the final row. The hierarchy goes from top to bottom in order of perceived importance.
- Alternatively you could first discuss the difference between 'wants', 'rights' and 'needs'. After arriving at a few examples of each, ask students to create their own 'diamond nine' or a selection of these. Which seem more important? Why is this? Which 'rights', 'wants' and 'needs' might students living in other countries do without?

You have the special right to grow up and to develop physically and spiritually in a healthy and normal way, free and with dignity.

You have the right to a name and to be a member of your country.

You have the right to special care and protection and to good food, housing and medical services.

You have the right to special care if handicapped in any way.

You have the right to love and understanding, preferably from parents and family, but from the government where these cannot help.

You have the right to free schooling, to play, and to have an equal chance to develop yourself and to learn to be responsible and useful.

You have the right always to be among the first to get help.

You have the right to be protected against cruel acts or exploitation, e.g. you shall not be obliged to do work which hinders your development either physically or mentally. You should not work before a minimum age and never when that would hinder your health, and your moral and physical development.

You should be taught peace, understanding, tolerance and friendship among all people.