

APA Official Actions

Position Statement: Endorsement of United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2023

Approved by the Assembly, November 2022

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989, eventually becoming the most rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history, ratified by all UN member states except the United States. Described as an international bill of rights for children, it consists of a preamble and fifty-four articles that define the basic rights of children and sets forth an agenda to protect and ensure such rights. Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to implement its provisions. The articles of the CRC call for the ailment of provisions, resources, and contributions necessary to ensure the survival and development of children to their full potential. They also require member states to protect children from neglect, exploitation, and abuse. While the U.S. signed the Convention in 1995, it has yet to ratify it.

APA Position:

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) supports the enactment of legislation consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), that

- 1. Ensures children’s access to health, education and those resources necessary for their development.**
- 2. Protects children from abuse and exploitation.**
- 3. Solicits meaningful participation from children on decisions affecting their future.**