

Lesson 8A–Right to Legal Recognition

Right to Legal Recognition

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 15

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 7, Paragraph 1

The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 8

(1) States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child, preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.

(2) Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to reestablishing speedily his or her identity.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Learning Points

1. Students will discuss reasons why it is important to have their birth legally registered.
2. Students will explain why everyone has a right to a name and a nationality.
3. Students will defend the statement: “Everyone has a right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.” *UDHR, Article 6.*

Lesson Outline

1. Welcome

Recite, chant, or sing “I Am Me” (p. 53) Or, select a song, poem or activity from your country or culture.

2. Review

If you have freedom of opinion and expression, what would your responsibility be?

- Make sure that what you say is true or accurate and your source is reliable.
- If you want your voice heard and respected, you need to listen respectfully to others.

Share the quote that you found.

Questions

1. What do you think the person quoted is saying?
2. How does this quote make you feel?

3. Introduction

Show The Right to Legal Recognition mini poster (p. 54). Read articles 6 and 15. (p. 51)

Questions

1. What is nationality? *Nationality is the legal status of belonging to a particular nation.*
2. Why is it important to know our nationality?
3. Can we change our nationality? *Yes. A person must receive permission to enter a country, then apply to a government office in the country where they intend to establish citizenship. They then need to follow the guidelines of the country.*

Read articles 7 and 8. (p. 51)

4. What does State Parties mean? *The country has agreed to a treaty that recognizes human rights.*
5. When is our birth registered? *Around the time of our birth.*
6. What is a birth registration? *A legal record of where the child was born and the name of his/her parents.*

4. Development

Questions

1. Why is birth registration important?
 - *It is a legal proof of identity.*
 - *It is required for a child to get a birth certificate.*
 - *It helps government protect the child's rights.*
 - *It helps government decide where and how to spend money to provide services such as health care, education and immunization, etc.*
2. What is the difference between birth registration and birth certificate? *Birth registration records a birth with the government. The record is kept in a government office. Generally a birth certificate is issued by the government and given to the parent or caregiver.*

3. Where can a birth registration be found? *In most countries when a baby is born, this information is written down and kept in a government office: the baby's name, his or her parents, date of birth, place of birth.*
4. What does a birth certificate protect?
 - *This legal proof of identity can help protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. Without a birth certificate, children are unable to prove their age, which puts them at a much higher risk of being forced into early marriage, the labor market, or recruited into armed forces.*
 - *It can also help protect migrant and refugee children against family separation, trafficking and illegal adoption. Without it, these children are at a much higher risk of statelessness, meaning they do not have legal ties to any country, including a nationality.*
 - *Without a birth certificate, many children can't get routine vaccines and other healthcare services. They may be unable to attend school or register for exams. As a result, their future job opportunities are extremely limited, which makes them more likely to live in poverty.*
 - *In young adulthood, children will need this official identification for basic but important transactions like opening a bank account, registering to vote, getting a passport, entering the formal job market, buying or inheriting property, or receiving social assistance.*

5. Conclusion

Read this quote and discuss it with your class:

“The births of around one quarter of children under the age of five worldwide have never been recorded. These children's lives cannot be protected if governments don't even know they exist. Even when children are registered, they may not have proof of registration. An estimated 237 million children under the age of five worldwide currently do not have a birth certificate.” <https://www.unicef.org>

Read articles 6 and 15 (p. 51) Show the sample birth information form (p. 55). Ask students to copy the information from the form.

6. Challenge

- Share the information on the sample birth information form with your family. Fill in as much as you can.
- Ask your parents or guardian if your birth has been registered.

I Am Me

Welcome

Recite, chant, or sing:

Kristina Evonne Carter

Who am I? I am a per-son, I am me, I am of val-
ue. I am me, I am me, I am me. I have a right
to be ac-cept-ed Eve-ry-where as a per-son. I have a name,
I have a name, I have a name. I have
an i-den-ti-ty reg-is-tered with my na-tion-al-i-ty First name, last name
birth-day, boy or girl. I've got in-di-vid-u-al-i-ty, I am part
of a fami-ly. I have these rights eve-ry where I go. Who am I? I am a per-
son, I am me, I am of val-ue. I am me, I am me, I am me.
I have a right to be ac-cept-ed Eve-ry-where as a per-
son. I have a name, I have a name, I have a name.

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To hear the music, go to the **COUNTRIES** menu tab, select **GHANA**, and click on the button that says **Music**.

<https://go-hre.org/resources/music-english/>



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Conclusion

Sample Birth Registration Form

A “universal birth certificate” would typically include the following information, aiming to be easily understood across different countries:

Personal Details:

Full Name (First, Middle, Last)

Date of Birth (Day, Month, Year)

Place of Birth (City, State/Province, Country)

This is NOT a Legal Form

Child	1. Child's Name (Given, Middle, Surname)	2. Sex	3. Date of Birth (day/month/year)
	4. Where the child was born (Village, Town or City)	5. State, District or Province / Country	
Mother	6. Mother's current legal name (Given, Middle, Surname)		
	8. Mother's Name prior to first marriage (Given, Middle, Surname)		
	9. Mother's Birthplace (Village, Town or City / State, District, or Province / Country)		
Father	10. Father's Name (Given, Middle, Surname)		
	11. Father's Birthplace (Village, Town or City / State, District, or Province / Country)		

Lesson 8B–Right to Legal Recognition

Right to Legal Recognition

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(2) Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to reestablishing speedily his or her identity.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Learning Points

1. Students will discuss reasons why it is important to have their birth legally registered.
2. Students will defend the statement: “Everyone has a right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.” UDHR, Article 6.
3. Students will share their knowledge with others and encourage them to register their births.
4. Students will begin to write their personal stories.

Lesson 8B–Right to Legal Recognition

Lesson Outline

1. Welcome

Recite, chant, or sing “I Am Me” (p. 53) Or, select a song, poem, or activity from your country or culture.

2. Review

Questions

1. What is the difference between a birth registration and a birth certificate? *A birth registration is a form kept in a government office. A birth certificate is given to a parent or guardian.*
2. Someone tell us about what you learned about your birth registration or birth certificate.
3. Were you able to add information to the sample form you copied?

3. Introduction

Last time we learned that the births of around one quarter of children under the age of five worldwide have never been recorded. An estimated 237 million children under the age of five worldwide currently do not have a birth certificate.

<https://www.unicef.org>

Question

What are the reasons for this?

- *Government registration systems may require registration fees that people can't afford.*
- *There are not enough trained workers to record births.*
- *Some people live in remote areas that are hard to reach.*
- *People don't know how to register a birth.*
- *There is religious or gender discrimination against certain groups.* <https://www.unicef.org>

4. Development

Read CRC articles 7 and 8 (p. 56) and show the Right to Legal Recognition mini poster (p. 54)

Questions

1. Where does CRC, article 8, suggest we go for assistance with establishing our identity? *States Parties or government.*
2. What can be done to improve registration?
 - *Create help centers.*
 - *Get hospitals to register births.*
 - *Make registration accessible through phones or computers.*
3. What should you do if for some reason your birth was not registered with the government? *Ask for information from your family then seek help from local government officials.*

Remember: With every right, you have a responsibility not only for yourself but for others as well.

- *You should make sure you are registered. Remind your friends to do the same.*
- *Talk to your teachers and parents to find solutions to challenges that fit your circumstances.*
- *Help others.*

5. Conclusion

We know that we are each unique. There is no one just exactly like you.

Questions

1. We all want to be seen and acknowledged. Are there other ways we can make ourselves visible to the world whether or not we have a birth registration and birth certificate?
 - *Make a personal record by completing as much of the information on the Registration Form (p. 55) as you can.*
 - *Draw pictures of you and your family.*
 - *Write down where you have lived.*
 - *Make a family tree, listing as many family names, dates and places as you can.*
 - *Draw a picture map of your life.*
2. You can write your own story. What do you want others to know about you? What could it include?
 - *Important events*
 - *Various experiences, including how you felt about those moments*
 - *Humorous experiences*
 - *Things you like to do*
 - *A moment related to history that you lived through*
 - *What you've learned*
 - *Experiences with grandparents or other relatives*
 - *Favorite—food, music, person, book, holiday*
 - *What you want to do in the future*
 - *Challenges you have faced and what you did to meet them*

6. Challenge

- *Talk with friends and family about the importance of having births registered and a birth certificate in one's possession.*
- *Begin to write or draw your personal story and be ready to share briefly in class.*