

February, 2009

## NHN Position Paper: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

As a Homeschool consultant I have been asked why many homeschool organizations and parents do not support of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). Based on these discussions and on recent posts to NV–Alert, I have realized that many Americans do not have a grasp of the severity of the threat the CRC poses and that I was not able to frame and explain the issue well. As a result, I dug in, did some research and culled information from a number of different sources. *Although this information is not quoted directly, I do not claim to have written the thoughts and opinions expressed below and wish to credit the sources listed at the end of this paper (all underlining or color added).*

Besides the complete nullification of parental authority over their own children, the basic premise on which the UN CRC or any other treaty is based is frightening. In short, any treaty ratified by the U.S. Congress becomes the law of the land and worst yet, judges are bound to the treaty. Yes, our wonderful Constitution has an Achilles' heel, that being Article VI Section II. The section states: "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or Laws of any state to the Contrary notwithstanding."

The difference between the U.S. and other countries when it comes to international law is that the U.S. Constitution places treaties in a superior position in relation to state laws and constitutions, making the ratified treaty the law of the land. Ratifying the convention would mean imposing laws created outside of this country on citizens within this country. Obviously, international law is not formed with the consent of the American people. A threat exists because American judges can use international law to rule on cases that involve families. By using international law to decide domestic disputes, American judges would be violating the fundamental founding principals of self-government on which America is built.

If the UN CRC becomes binding on the United States, through ratification in US Senate, the government would have the power to intervene in a child's life for whatever it considers to be "in the best interest" of the child. Currently, the government can intervene only by going to court (Due Process) and proving that parents have been abusive or have neglected their children. But the wording of the CRC dictates that whenever the government believes that your parental choices are not in the best interest of the child, the government would have the power to override your choices and protect your child from you!

The CRC is primarily concerned with four aspects of children's rights (the four P's):

- 1) Participation by children in decisions affecting them;
- 2) Protection of children against discrimination and all forms of neglect and exploitation;
- 3) Prevention of harm to them; and
- 4) Provision of assistance to children for their basic needs.

Although this wording sounds good on its face, when the feel good language is peeled away it is quite an attack on parental rights.

In treaty terminology a party's promise to "ensure" a right denotes the highest degree of obligation. This means more than simply not interfering with the exercise of a right. It requires the "states parties" ( U.S.A.) to take positive measures, legislative, financial, etc. to make sure that the right can be effectively exercised. According to the American Bar Association the word "ensure" is used 32 times in the CRC.

Here, in no particular order, are just ten examples of sections parental rights advocates and homeschoolers are opposed to. If the CRC is ratified the United States will be obligated to "ensure" the following:

- 1) Article 7 (1) - Every child shall be registered by the government immediately after birth. **This means that government tracking will be required.**
- 2) Article 24 - Every child shall receive the highest attainable level of health care services. **The American Bar Association determined that this provision indicates a mandatory federal health insurance plan would be necessary to comply with the treaty.**
- 3) Article 28 (2) states that all schools must be prohibited from using corporal punishment. Article 19(1) and Article 37(a) not only prohibit school authorities from administering corporal punishment but it also applies to parents, legal guardians or any other person who has care of the child. **This section will essentially outlaw spanking.**
- 4) Article 13 (1) - Under this article the United States will be required to "ensure" that children are vested with "freedom of expression". The article states, "The child shall have the right to freedom of expression: this right shall include freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art or through any other media of the child's choice." **This essentially gives children the right to listen to any form of music (rock, gang rap, etc.) watch any channels on the television and even have access to pornography!**
- 5) Article 14 (1) - "States Parties shall respect the rights of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion." **This will give children the right to object to their parents' religious training and participate instead in religious services that their parents consider to be cults.**
- 6) Article 15 (1) - Under this article children would have the right to freedom of association. It reads, "States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly." **Parents could not prohibit their children from associating with certain other children, gangs or cults.**
- 7) Article 16 (1) - "No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and

reputation." A child will be given a "right to privacy". This would make it easy for children to get abortions over their parents' objections. The parents would not even know. **This would virtually negate all parental notification laws concerning abortion and any other laws or policies that require parental notification.**

8) Article 28 (1) - "States Parties recognize the right of the child to education..." Under the U.N. Treaty public education would be a "right" to all children of the United States. **Parents interfering with the child's right to choose public education would be violating his rights and could be subject to prosecution. Can you say bye-bye homeschooling?**

9) Article 4 - "States parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation." **This article makes it clear that signatory nations would be bound to expend considerable financial resources for implementation of the CRC Treaty.**

10) Article 43 (2) - This article establishes an international committee of ten experts elected by secret ballot to oversee the progress of the implementation of the treaty. **America will have its domestic policy subjected to foreign control, and the sovereignty of our nation will be under threat.**

These are but a few of the numerous examples of how this treaty can affect our rights to homeschool let alone our rights to have parental control over our children. **We do not need this treaty!** We already have a massive child welfare system in place, and the havoc that would be caused by the litigation-gone-wild would be immeasurable. We must stay informed on the status of this and any other treaty as they do not go away. It appears that a constitutional amendment is what is needed to remove the Achilles' heel" and protect parental rights from the courts and international law.

Carl Lucas,  
Nevada Homeschool Network, Officer

#### Sources:

\* The Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) [http://www.hsllda.org/search.asp?cx=003292018161232433569%3A9te\\_1-65iw&cof=FORID%3A9&ie=UTF-8&q=UN+Convention+on+the+Rights+of+the+Child&sa.x=33&sa.y=12#944](http://www.hsllda.org/search.asp?cx=003292018161232433569%3A9te_1-65iw&cof=FORID%3A9&ie=UTF-8&q=UN+Convention+on+the+Rights+of+the+Child&sa.x=33&sa.y=12#944)

\* Christopher Klicka, *Homeschooling: The Right Choice* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005)

\* Parental Rights.Org [www.ParentalRights.org](http://www.ParentalRights.org)

\* Eagle Forum. <http://www.eagleforum.org/>

\* A treatise by the American Bar Association entitled "Children's Rights in America: U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child Compared to American Law"  
[www.abanet.org/intlaw/committees/tax\\_estate\\_individuals/family/crc.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/committees/tax_estate_individuals/family/crc.pdf) - 2005-04-04

\* Children's Rights International Law Executive Summary. \* The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>

Following are a series of posts to NV-Alert over the last year on both the UN CRC and the Parental Rights Amendment. Hopefully, these will further clarify the issue for those interested.

### **Parental Rights Amendment introduced!**

Dear Nevada Homeschoolers and Supporters,

July 6, 2008

The Parental Rights Amendment has been introduced in Congress!

I cannot think of a more important amendment, with parental rights being eroded at every level in our society. The State (both local and Federal) has been handcuffing parents (figueratively, but sometimes literally) with Social Services agencies that have no checks and balances. Anyone who has had CPS at their door knows that they are guilty until proven innocent of whatever crime that was anonymously turned in. Homeschool laws in every State are predicated on the assumption that the State's rights over our children are greater than the God-given and natural right to educate our own children. In every area (not just homeschooling) parents MUST assert their God-given, natural, constitutional and legal right to be primary caregiver, with the State secondary.

Amazingly, it appears that a Parental Rights Amendment is the ONLY way this can be remedied!

For more information, visit the Parental Rights website - it has a TON of information! (Click on The Issue, The Threat, The Solution) <http://www.parentalrights.org/>

The last amendment to our US Constitution was in 1992; with another in 1971 and three in the 1960s (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amendments\\_to\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_Constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amendments_to_the_United_States_Constitution)). This is not a "con con" (constitutional convention); instead it's the standard US Congress method for amending our Constitution (again, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_methods\\_of\\_constitutional\\_amendment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_methods_of_constitutional_amendment)).

-Frank Schnorbus  
Nevada Homeschool Network, Chair

## **JANUARY, 2008**

### ***Washington Times Op-ed—Treaty Threatens Parents' Rights***

*by J. Michael Smith*

*HSLDA President*

All good parents are committed to seeking the best for their children, and in the crucial days of the presidential nominating process, many of us are turning our eyes to the years ahead. What will the future look like for our children? Though candidates and voters may have different perspectives on the specifics of achieving a positive future, one thing remains certain: Children need their parents.

The overwhelming majority know that parental involvement in the lives of children makes a key difference when it comes to their healthy development, education and positive life choices. In particular, homeschool families know firsthand the impact of strong parental involvement in the lives of children. Few dispute the vital role of parents in raising the next generation, but, regrettably, few recognize that the fundamental role of parents is under direct attack.

It's possible that in the near future, the United States may significantly weaken the rights of parents to raise their children. Crucial decisions that parents are accustomed to making, such as what our children read, who they associate with, what kind of discipline is used, whether we take them to church, or whether we homeschool, all become decisions for the state if the United States ratifies the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This frightening scenario could be just around the corner. It's not as far-fetched as we may believe. The UNCRC, after being approved by the Clinton administration in February 1995, was then sent to the Senate. In the mid-'90s, the UNCRC was opposed by a core group of senators and stopped. The treaty still can be ratified, however, since we do not know who will control the Congress and the presidency in the future.

Many parents are completely unaware of the hazards lurking within the words of this treaty. Wrapped neatly within its positive phrases and child-focused language is a dangerous disregard for the vital role parents play in the lives of their children. By allowing the government to define and determine what is in the “best interests of the child,” outside the context of abuse and neglect cases, the UNCRC in effect diminishes the parental role, replacing it with government supervision. If this treaty is made binding upon our country, government officials could be advancing their definition of the “best interests” of your child—even if it means overriding some of our parental choices.

Since the U.S. Constitution makes treaty provisions binding on the nation, the only way to defend against the UNCRC, if it's ratified, is to amend the Constitution. To this end, the Home School Legal Defense Association is actively supporting [ParentalRights.org](http://ParentalRights.org), a new grass-roots movement of concerned parents across the nation. ParentalRights.org is an organization dedicated to ensuring the long-term security of the child-parent relationship. The ultimate goal, however, of ParentalRights.org is to secure a constitutional amendment that will preserve and protect the rights of parents.

The parental rights amendment does not add to or change current parental rights—it only protects the rights parents presently possess, ensuring that those rights will not be weakened or devalued. The amendment would ensure that, even if the UNCRC is ratified, your parental rights would still be protected. If you would like to read more about your parental rights and why they need to be protected, visit [www.ParentalRights.org](http://www.ParentalRights.org).

As the new year gets under way, many of us are thinking about the future of our families. The safeguarding of parental rights is vital to the future of our nation because of the role parents play in the lives of their children is one that no government official ever could replace.

*Michael Smith is the president of the Home School Legal Defense Association. He may be contacted at (540)338-5600; or send email to [media@hsllda.org](mailto:media@hsllda.org).*

## School Court Report.

by Michael P. Farris

- disclaimer -

### A Deeper Understanding of the Threat of International Law

In the March/April 2006 [Home School Court Report](#), I made the case for a parental rights amendment to the United States Constitution. Even though parental rights are recognized as a fundamental right under current Supreme Court doctrine, there are two threats to recognition of this principle.

First, a growing number of Supreme Court justices refuse to recognize that parental rights are a fundamental right. Justice Antonin Scalia, a noted conservative, holds that parental rights are not judicially enforceable at all until there is a specific parental rights provision in the Constitution.

The second threat is the growing use of international law in American courts. If the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child becomes binding in this country, then parental rights as we know them will be erased. Moreover, all state laws which recognize the right of homeschooling will be superseded by international law to the extent that international and federal courts believe these laws are in conflict.

This article takes you into an in-depth analysis of the threat of international law based on substantial formal study that I have undertaken in the last year. The article is adapted from a speech I gave at the 2007 Home School Legal Defense Association National Conference for Christian Homeschool Leaders.

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he question at the heart of the American Revolution was who had the moral authority to make the laws that bound the American colonies. The answer of our forefathers was that only the American people themselves or their elected legislative bodies have the moral authority to make laws.

**Listen online:** Mike Farris speaks about parental rights and international law at the 2007 National Conference.

MP3 file, 14 MB

Approximately 30 minutes

In light of this history, the first question any of us should ask about international law is: **Who has the authority to make international law?** And a second question follows immediately: **Who is subject to international law?** And the third question to complete this series is: **What are the types of activities and subject matters that can be regulated through international law?**

The Charter of the United Nations—a treaty which we, like all other members of the UN, have agreed to—contains an annex which defines the sources of international law that are to be used by the International Court of Justice. Article 38 (1) of this annex states,

The Court, whose function is to decide in accordance with international law such disputes as are submitted to it, shall apply:

- a. international conventions, whether general or particular, establishing rules expressly recognized by the contesting states;
- b. international custom, as evidence of a general practice accepted as law;
- c. the general principles of law recognized by civilized nations;
- d. . . . judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations, as subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law.<sup>1</sup>

Let me restate these ideas in more familiar words. There are five methods of creating international law:

- Treaties
- Customary international law
- Rules of civilized nations
- Judicial decisions
- The teachings of the most highly qualified publicists

It would take a long time to fully explain each of these categories, but one observation is easily made: Only one of these five ways of making international law requires the consent of each nation before that nation is bound by a particular provision of international law. **Treaties are binding only when individual nations consent.** All other forms of international law can bind nations even without their consent.

Customary international law (CIL) purports to bind every nation in the world when the vast majority of nations agree on a principle of law. But a dissenting nation is bound regardless of its own desire under this legal theory.

Moreover, customary international law can be made by “the teachings of the most highly qualified publicists”—that is, professors of international law.

In fact, there is a committee of international law professors who work under the sanction of the International Law Association (ILA) who claim the authority to determine the rules of customary international law that the whole world must obey. It is called the “Committee on the Formation of Customary (General) International Law.” It is composed of 24 international law experts—mostly professors of international law. The International Law Association holds consultative status with many of the specialized agencies of the UN.

One of the rules the ILA adopted blatantly proclaims the principle that a nation is bound by a rule of customary international law even if that nation never consents:

(iii) Where a rule of general customary international law exists, for any particular State to be bound by that rule it is not necessary to prove either that State’s consent to it or its belief in the rule’s obligatory or (as the case may be) permissive character.<sup>2</sup>

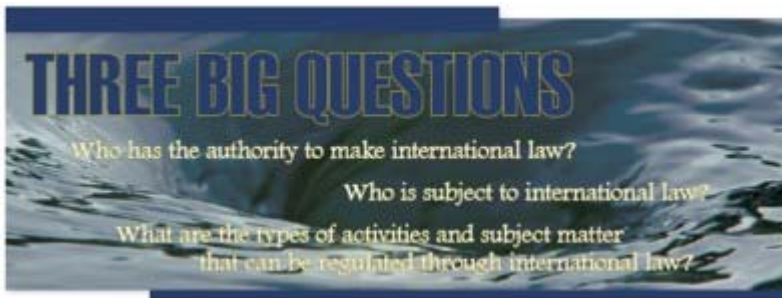
To test our understanding, let’s ask some questions:

- **When is a rule of CIL followed by enough nations to be considered customary?** When international judges or international publicists declare it to be so.
- **Is every nation of the world bound by their declaration?** Yes.

- **Who made the rule that says that every nation of the world is bound by it?** The international publicists. Law professors. Or as I like to call them—tyrants in tweed.

I have a friend who says that the goal of every committee is to rule the world. The local school board, the women's ministry committee, the student council, the Supreme Court, and the Committee on the Formation of Customary (General) International Law all have tendencies to expand the scope of their jurisdiction. But only this group of 24 law professors openly proclaims that it binds the whole world—even those who disagree.

Even though it is widely understood that there is an international human right to democratic self-government, the committee of 24 says “customary systems are rarely democratic” and “the international system as a whole is far from democratic.” Logical consistency is not the long suit of international law.



**#1** Our first question was: **Who has the authority to make international law?** While there are multiple answers, it is perfectly accurate to say that much of international law is made by the internationalist elite without regard to any need for consent by all the nations that are required to obey.

**#2** This brings us to our second major question: **Who is subject to international law?** Until World War II, the answer to this question would have been clear: Only nations acting through their government officials are subject to international law.

But the war crimes of the Nazis led to a rash of internationalism and a cry for the worldwide enforcement of human rights.

Before the human rights movement had taken hold, it was common to say that states—that is, nations—were the subjects of international law. Individuals were only the objects (that is, the beneficiaries) of international law and not the subjects. Saying it another way, only nations and governmental officials could sue or be sued under public international law. With the advent of international human rights law, individuals are gaining ground as having legally enforceable rights. Individuals may, in a number of instances, bring a suit to enforce their international rights against their own government.

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the circle is complete. A child acquires international rights under the CRC. And it is not only the government which may be held to violate the rights of the child. Private persons, including parents, may also be held to violate the international rights of the child.

The CRC itself does not provide for judicial enforcement in the international courts. But in several nations, including the United States, the violation of international rights can be pursued in the domestic courts. In other words, if the CRC becomes binding law in the United States, your child could sue you in U.S. federal or state courts for violating his international human rights.

There are more advanced theories percolating in the system which would extend the right to sue for individual violations of human rights laws in international courts even when there are no treaties in effect which call for such judicial enforcement. I predict that such arguments will be adopted within 20 years.

Let's review our second question: Who is subject to international law? Governments and all the people as individuals on the face of the earth are potentially subject to international law. All can sue. And all can be sued on the basis of international law violations.

### #3

Now we turn to our third question: **What are the types of activities and subject matter that can be regulated through international law?**

Let me quote from a textbook on children's international rights to give you the basic answer: "Human rights are classified into civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights."<sup>3</sup>

If a child does not have enough to eat, that is a violation of his economic rights.

If a child does not have a sufficient opportunity to play, that is a violation of his social rights.

If a decision is made for a child by his parents in a manner that is inconsistent with the UN's view of the child's best interest, that is a violation of his civil rights.

Economic rights include the right to adequate provision of housing, food, clothing, education, and health care. These are not merely good goals; each nation is obligated to ensure that each child has adequate provision in each of these areas. And that child has the human right to demand that the national economic planning be reconfigured to ensure that these goals are met.

The Supreme Court of South Africa used international law to rule that the government of South Africa was in violation of children's rights by the fact that children were living in substandard housing. The government was ordered under the authority of international law to provide acceptable housing to the affected children.



Most Americans would agree with the goals of about 80% of the human rights in the categories of civil and political rights. Most of these would be parallel to provisions of our own Bill of Rights. However, just because we would agree with the goals of such rights, we would not agree with the use of international law to achieve these goals.

Moreover, we would not agree with even a bare majority of the goals of the social, economic, and cultural rights that are promulgated by various human rights conventions, including the CRC. In short, there is a human right to live under socialism. The CRC, in particular, has this objective: "as Shamgar-Handelman observes, the efforts at standardising children's rights, although only negotiated between adults is an 'expression of utopian belief in world democracy . . . an ideology of equal sharing of resources . . .'"<sup>4</sup> (ellipses in original).

The developing moral theory of human rights law is made clear by a recent proclamation of Amnesty International. Abortion is a human right, Amnesty contends. We might think that their statement is just political talk with no legally binding effect. But we should remember the provision of the UN Charter that international law may be made by the "teachings of the most highly qualified publicists of the various nations." There is no doubt that Amnesty International has a claim to such status. Moreover, Amnesty's view on abortion rights is shared by the dominant majority of their fellow tyrants in tweed—the international law professors.

When you read things like that in the newspaper, you thought they were just spouting off. Amnesty understands it quite well. Their press releases help form the body of international law.

Can you think of an area of law that does not fall within the subject of economic, social, cultural, political, or civil rights? I can't either.

We can summarize the answers to all three of our questions in this way:

- The creation of international law does not require the consent of every nation.



- It governs every nation and every individual, and it encompasses all economic, social, cultural, political, and civil issues.
- Everyone and everything may be governed by international law without the necessity of our nation's consent.

But wait, there's more.

In my study I learned that there is a treaty on treaties. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties was created in 1969. The United States has never ratified this treaty. However, U.S. courts and legal experts agree that this treaty is an accurate distillation of customary international law. Thus, they claim that the United States is bound by the Convention on Treaties even though we have not ratified it.

Article 18 of the Convention on Treaties says that a nation which signs a treaty subject to ratification may not adopt laws and policies which are contrary to the treaty until such time that it has made a clear statement that it does not intend to adopt the treaty.

The Clinton Administration signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in February of 1995. Thus, America is not free to make new laws contrary to the CRC until we renounce this treaty.

Moreover, a U.S. federal district court ruled in two separate cases that the CRC has already become part of the customary international law. Accordingly, this federal court ruled that we are bound by the CRC even though this treaty has never been sent to our Senate for ratification. Additionally, Article 27 of the Vienna Convention on Treaties says that a nation may not justify its failure to obey international law based on a requirement of its domestic law. However, Article 46 of this Convention provides the only exception, stating that if the fundamental law of the nation makes it manifest that international law may not govern a particular area, then no treaty may bind it.

Now you understand why it is important to provide, as our draft of the parental rights amendment does, that no provision of international law may override this amendment. That is the rule for the repudiation of treaties. I have also learned that there is only one method to repudiate a rule of customary international law. It is called the "persistent objector rule." If our nation openly and persistently rejects the application of an alleged rule of customary international law, then we are not bound.

When the United States Supreme Court used the CRC as persuasive authority to make its decision on the issue of juvenile death penalties, it did the exact opposite of what is necessary to establish our nation as a persistent objector. And, by employing the CRC in this manner, the Supreme Court added to the weight of the claim that the CRC is in fact customary international law.<sup>5</sup>

It should be remembered that Harvard Law School is requiring all of its first-year students to study international law so that they will learn to think of all law, including American constitutional law, through the lens of international law.

The situation is bad today, but it is easy to see that it is likely to get worse—much worse.

The sovereignty of our nation is at stake. Sovereignty is nothing more than the principle of self-government, which proclaims that the American people, through their elected legislatures, have the sole right to make rules which will govern this nation.

We are poised to lose the right of self-government within the next generation. It won't feel like we are losing self-government—at least not entirely. The internationalists will let us make our own policies except when those policies disagree with their standards.

We have only one shot at stopping this movement.

And the burden rests on us—the homeschooling movement—to alert our friends and neighbors to the issue we all face.

Home School Legal Defense Association has launched a separate organization, because this is not a battle just for homeschoolers. The organization is named [ParentalRights.org](http://ParentalRights.org). The website and the name of the group are one and the same.

If you want to help stop the erosion of parental rights at the hands of international law, then we ask you to go to [ParentalRights.org](http://ParentalRights.org) and sign the petition to become a citizen co-sponsor of the constitutional amendment. This means that you promise to call your senators and congressmen to support parental rights.

We need your help to send everyone you know to the [ParentalRights.org](http://ParentalRights.org) website to join in proclaiming that "We want to preserve our families and our nation against the threat of international law."

The internationalist elite do not want children reared in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We disagree. But more importantly, God's word is clear on the matter.

International law is dangerous and powerful. Eternal law is far more powerful and good, because it reflects the character of God.

This is the crossroads of our generation. Which will we choose? Internationalism and socialism and moral relativism? Or liberty and self-government and virtue? God's people must rise up. And if we do, He will deliver the victory.

### Endnotes

1 [International Court of Justice, Statute of the International Court of Justice.](#)

2 International Law Association, Committee on Formation of Customary (General) International Law, "[Final Report of the Committee: Statement of Principles Applicable to the Formation of General Customary International Law,](#)" 2000.

3 Geraldine Van Bueren, **The International Law on the Rights of the Child** (The Hague: Kluwer Law International/Martinus Nijhoff, 1998), 4.

4 Geraldine Van Bueren, **The International Law on the Rights of the Child** (The Hague: Kluwer Law International/Martinus Nijhoff, 1998), 38.

5 **Roper v. Simmons**, 543 U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ (2005).

Re: [NV-Alert] NHN weekly notes 1-28-08

I am glad you asked! Here is a small portion of what is scary (there are 54 articles in this treaty):

Would you want to give "broad new powers" over children, families and schools by a panel of foreign bureaucrats? (Think about Germany outlawing home schooling).

The children (under this treaty) would be able to express his own views "freely in all matters", receive info of all kinds through "media of the child's choice", "freedom of religion" and they would be protected from "interference with his or her privacy . . . or correspondence" to have access to information from national and "international sources" oh and yes, have the right to "rest and leisure". Most of this sounds innocent . . . please think about it.

What about our children saying whatever they want in any manner they want? Do they want to watch TV (access to the media) instead of doing school work? Not do chores or anything you may ask of them because it interferes with rest and leisure? Sounds like pitting kids against the parents and the parents have no say in the raising of their young. Unlike our US Constitution (rights that can be enforced against the government) this would pit the child against parents, family, private institution and society as a whole.

What about schools??? This treaty calls for teaching children respect for "the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations" for "the national values of . . . civilizations different from his or her own," for "tolerance" and "the natural environment"

There is also requiring governments to the "maximum extent of their available resources" "adequate standard of living". (Read \$\$\$, so will the World Courts require our government to impose new taxes to carry out the treaty obligations?)

The treaty requires us to "ensure the development" of child-care institutions, facilities and services. EVERY child is to be registered at birth. Sounds like a global registry with ID cards issued by the UN. (Currently there are a number of states that are getting legislation ready to have mandatory pre-school. This decision should be up to the parent, but the state is going to decide for you. If this treaty was enacted, the UN would be in charge).

There are also many references to "family planning, reproductive health services, her right of access to health care" etc. To those of us who find abortion offensive, we would have no way to education our own children on these matters.

Oh yes, there will be an establishment of a new international bureaucracy and mechanism of control. Article 43 sets up a committee of ten "so-called" experts. There is no assurance that any American will be on this committee, or even one

expert will be sensitive to American institutions and traditions.

This "treaty" is full of hypocrisy! Of course many of the countries that have already ratified it regularly engage in child labor, slavery, mutilation, and selling girls and boys into prostitution.

I have tried to touch on some of the problems with this treaty. Remember, this would gut our own US Constitution and US Sovereignty. You would be handing over you children to the "world" to raise. We as parents would have very little say in their upbringing and any control in our own families.

I hope this clarifies my position, and explains why I view this treaty as an intrusion into the American families, and America itself. Please excuse my spelling errors as I am trying to type as fast as I can think and my hands are very cold . . . doesn't work well!

Sincerely,  
Lynn Chapman  
VP Nevada Eagle Forum