



YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM : **YOU HAVE RIGHTS...**

1. ...When you are first arrested or questioned

- You have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty
- You have the right to be held under arrest for the shortest possible period of time only
- You have the right to legal assistance and to communicate regularly with your lawyer

2. ...While your case is being heard in court

- You have the right to legal assistance
- You have the right to be heard (using your own voice or through your lawyer) And for your views to be considered
- You have the right NOT to be forced into confessing guilt, or to participating in the examination of witnesses
- You have the right to the free assistance of a translator if you cannot understand or speak the language used
- You have the right to be treated fairly, no matter your race, ethnicity, gender, or religion
- You have the right to have your privacy respected at all stages of the proceedings (i.e. your name, address or photo should not be published in any newspapers or made public in any way)

3. ...When you are sentenced

- You have the right NOT to be punished with death or life in prison (without the possibility of early release)
- You have the right to be punished with imprisonment ONLY as a last resort and for the shortest possible period of time
- You have the right to receive a sentence that is proportional to the offence committed (i.e. you should be given a lighter sentence for a petty offence, and a more severe sentence for a more serious crime)



4. ...While carrying out your sentence

- You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect

...If you are sentenced to imprisonment

- You have the right to be held separately from adults
- You have the right to maintain contact with your family through visits, letters, phone calls
- You have the right NOT to be restrained (held down against your will) or treated with force UNLESS you pose a direct threat to yourself or others
- You have the right NOT to be punished with restraint or force
- You have the right to receive an education, as well as vocational training in areas likely to prepare you for future employment
- You have the right to daily exercise, in the open air when possible
- You have the right to mental and physical health care
- You have the right to be kept in a clean and healthy environment
- You have the right to enough food, and a balanced diet

5. ...When you have completed your sentence

- You have the right to benefit from programmes designed to help you return to family and community life, and education or employment after release

Sources :

- *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)*
- *UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules, 1985)*
- *UN Rules for the Protection of Children Deprived of their Liberty (1990)*
- *UN Committee on the Rights of the Child - General Comment No. 10 On Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice (2007)*