

# **Pediatric Palliative Care: A Human Rights Issue**

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# Rights based approaches for children

## UN Convention on Rights of the Child:

an international human rights treaty that introduces the concept that children are subjects of rights with the same inherent value as adults

Adopted 1989 signed by 193 countries  
(except Somalia, South Sudan, and USA)

## 4 Articles may be relevant

- Article 2 – Non-discrimination
- Article 3 – Best interests
- Article 6 – Right to survival and development
- Article 12 – Right to be listened to

# **International Children's Palliative Care Network Charter of Rights for life-limited and life-threatened children**

The charter sets out the international standard of support, that is the right of all children living with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families

<http://www.icpn.org.uk>

# ICPCN Declaration of Capetown

Palliative care for children is a basic human right.

We believe that all children with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions have the right to quality palliative care provided by trained health care practitioners.

<http://www.icpn.org.uk>

# Palliative Care Rights Include:

- Pain relief
- Symptom control for physical and psychological symptoms
- Essential medicines for palliative care
- Spiritual and bereavement care
- Family centered care
- Care by trained palliative care professionals

# Pediatric Palliative Care

- Worldwide there are 7-9 million children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions requiring palliative care.
- 80% live in resource-limited countries.
- The estimated global number of children in need of palliative care at the end-of-life is almost 1,2 million.
- **The rights of these dying children are often unrecognized and hence not respected.**