

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

WHEREAS, the world's children are its most precious resource and international law, the law of the United States of America, and all 50 states recognize the special needs and vulnerability of children; and

WHEREAS, throughout the world, 1 billion children are deprived of one or more services essential to survival and development; 148 million children under five years old in developing regions are underweight for their age; 500 million children have been affected by violence; 150 million children between the ages of 5-14 are engaged in child labor; 1.2 million children were trafficked as of the year 2000;¹ and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the fundamental rights of the world's children and raises these rights to the level of international law, and further guarantees a child's right to survival through the provision of adequate food, shelter, clean water, and primary health care; to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation in times of war and peace; to healthy development through a safe environment and to the opportunity to participate in the social, economic, civil, and religious life of their country, free from discrimination; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 1989, the United States of America joined other members of the United Nations General Assembly in the unanimous adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges adopted a Resolution on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on July 17, 1991 in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Resolution urged the President of the United States to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to transmit it to the United States Senate, and urged the Senate to ratify the Convention at the earliest possible date; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 193 countries have ratified the Convention, with the exception of Somalia, and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United States Congress has enacted laws, such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, which conform with many of the provisions in the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges hereby urges the President of the United States to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to transmit it to the United States Senate; and further urges the Senate to ratify the Convention at the earliest possible date.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees at their Spring Meeting, March 14, 2010, Las Vegas, NV.

¹ *The State of the World's Children, Special Edition Celebrating 20 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, United Nations Children's Fund, 2009, <http://www.unicef.org/>