

**IDEA 1a *OpportunINDY's* Rights of the Child: Recognizing Indianapolis children and youth have global human rights by composing a local version of a children's rights compact reflecting our city's regard for its young citizens**

*OpportunINDY* will select and gather a team of individuals, organizations, and young people (ages 10-20) which will create an *OpportunINDY* Rights of the Child policy and a compact card young people can carry.

What are Human Rights?

While some dictionaries define the word right as “a privilege,” when used in the context of human rights we are talking about something more basic.

“All children are entitled to protection from abuse; provision of education, health care and an adequate standard of living; having their views heard, and; children vulnerable to discrimination are entitled to specific protections.”

~ Children's Rights are Human Rights <http://campaign2000.ca/our-work/public-education/>

Every person is entitled to certain fundamental rights, simply by the fact of being human. They are “rights” because they are things you are allowed to be, to do or to have. These rights intend to protect us against those who might want to harm or hurt. They are also there to help us get along with each other, thus reducing violence.

When the young people of Indianapolis know they not only have rights as an American, but also rights as a global citizen, they will become valuable advocates for tolerance and peace because they will realize they must take responsibility to protect themselves and their peers.

When Indianapolis young people have human rights which have a global paradigm, it can help protect them from abuses such as discrimination, intolerance, injustice, and oppression. This is foundational for an Indianapolis built on freedom, justice, and peace.