

LOUISE-NEWS

We discover the world – Kids Voices for 2030

SDGs – Children's Rights – Morocco

We are class 3e of the Louise-Schroeder-School, and in our first issue of our school newspaper, we report on two exciting topics: children's rights and Morocco. What do children need to thrive, and what rights do they actually have? You can also read an interview with May Evers from Plan International, who explains why children's rights are so important and how Plan International helps children.

Children's Rights

Why do children's rights exist?

In this report, we'll tell you about the origins of children's rights.

In the past, children often didn't have their own rights. Many had to work, weren't allowed to go to school, or weren't adequately protected. After World War II, the United Nations declared that children needed special rights.

In 1989, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted. It contains 54 children's rights. Over 190 countries have signed this treaty and pledged to protect children's rights. The USA, however, has not signed the treaty.

Children need many things to grow up well. They need food and drink, a family, education and schooling, a doctor when they are sick, and, of course, rights to protect them. We find some rights particularly important. The right to education is important because it's unfair when children aren't allowed to go to school. The right to peace is important because children shouldn't suffer in war.

And the right to play and leisure is important because life should also be fun.



The most important children's rights for us include:

1. The right to equality
2. The right to health
3. The right to education
4. The right to protection from violence
5. The right to family and care
6. The right to freedom of expression
7. The right to play and leisure
8. The right to participation
9. The right to protection from poverty
10. The right to an identity
11. The right to protection in war and during displacement

Authors: Piet, Mina, Liam, Willi

Children's Rights

Education is a right – for girls and boys

We took a closer look at two children's rights: the right to education and the right to freedom of expression and participation.

First, we'd like to tell you about the right to education.

The right to education means that every child has the right to go to school, regardless of gender, background, or disability. All children should have the same opportunities.

Those who can go to school have better chances for a good future. Children learn to read, write, and do arithmetic, and gain more knowledge. This gives them better career prospects later on.



In some countries, girls are married off very young. Then they have to take care of their families and can no longer go to school. In many families, girls stay at home and look after their younger siblings. They have to cook and clean, and therefore there is no time left for school. Often there is also a lack of money for notebooks, clothes, or school fees.

For all girls to be able to go to school, something has to change. People can demonstrate and advocate for children's rights. You can also sponsor a child, for example through Plan International. Countries need to implement children's rights more effectively.

Parents need jobs so they can support their children. Safe routes to school, more school buses, and more support for families are also essential.



We believe that every child has the right to learn and to shape their own future.

Why school is important

At school we learn to read, write, and do arithmetic.

School helps us find a job later on. We learn to think independently and solve problems.

At school we meet friends and learn to work together.

Education gives us opportunities for a good future.



Authors: Jonas, Ada, Eda, Mia

Children's Rights

„Children's rights concern us all!“ – Interview with May Evers from Plan International

What exactly are children's rights, and who ensures they are respected? We spoke with May Evers from Plan International. She explains how projects help children, why children should have a say, and which rights are particularly important.

Who are you, and what do you do?

May Evers: My name is May, and I work for Plan International. It's a children's rights organization. We support children and families in many countries where poverty is widespread, so they can improve their lives.

What does Plan International do?

May Evers: We help, for example, by building schools, supporting teachers, and helping families become more self-sufficient, for instance, through growing vegetables or grain. It's also important to us that children have a say in what's needed.

Why is it important that children have a voice?

May Evers: Children often see things differently than adults and have their own ideas and wishes.

What is your job at Plan International?

May Evers: I'm responsible for internal communications, which means ensuring teams work well together and that information gets through. And I pay particular attention to child protection.

What does "child protection" mean at events?

May Evers: For example, we plan events so they don't end too late, so children don't have to walk home alone in the dark. Safety is very important to us.

What do you wish for the future of all children?

May Evers: I wish that every child had the chance to shape their life the way they want: to grow up healthy, go to school, have equal rights, and have their opinion count. And I wish for: no violence and no injustice.

What is your job at Plan International?

May Evers: I'm responsible for internal communications, so making sure that teams work well together and that information gets through. And I pay particular attention to the protection of children.

Who actually ensures that children's rights are respected?

May Evers: The UN (United Nations) has rules for this. Every country has to report every five years on how it implements children's rights in its own country.



Which children's right do you personally find most important?

May Evers: I think all children's rights are important. I'm particularly passionate about the right to participation, meaning that children are taken seriously and listened to.

Children's Rights

You also had a question for us. What did you want to know?

May Evers: I'm interested in what you do at Radiojojo.

Class 3e: We produce a school newspaper and a radio show. Our topics are Morocco and children's rights.

May Evers: Which children's rights are most important to the children?

Class 3e: We think the right to protection from war and violence, the right to health, the right to privacy, and the right to freedom of expression are important.

May Evers: These are all important rights – and it's really great that you're learning about them!



Many thanks to **May Evers** for the great interview! We learned a lot about children's rights and the work of Plan International, and now we know: Children should be safe, healthy, and have a say. We in class 3e think: Children's rights are incredibly important – for all children in the world!

Our opinion counts! – Children have a voice

The right to an opinion and to have a say means that all children are allowed to say what they think and feel. Children have a say when it comes to their own lives. Their opinion is important and should be taken seriously.

Children are allowed to express their opinions everywhere. A child's opinion is just as valuable as an adult's. Children have good ideas and often know exactly what they need.

Children should have a say, especially at home, at school, and in daycare. They spend a lot of time there, so it's important that they are heard.

Where have we had a say before?

Many of us have already had a say. For example, we get to say what we want to eat or which game we want to play. We get to decide what we spend our money on and what we want to wear. This shows that our opinion matters.

We believe that when children are allowed to have their say, they feel valued and empowered.

The right to freedom of expression

This means: You are allowed to say what you think and feel. Your opinion matters.

Where? At home, at school, at daycare – everywhere.

Important: Remain respectful: Don't insult or hurt anyone.

Remember: I am allowed to express my opinion – and so are others.

Authors: Tugba, Benno, Anhelina, Elina

Morocco

Our Partner country: Morocco

Morocco is located in northwest Africa. Its neighboring countries are Algeria and Mauritania. The Spanish cities of Ceuta and Melilla are also located on its coast.

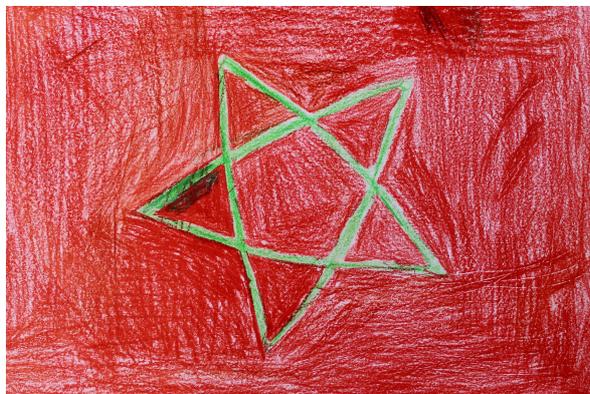
Morocco has a population of approximately 37 million. Germany has a population of about 84 million. This means that Germany has more than twice the population of Morocco.

Morocco covers an area of approximately 458,730 square kilometers. Arabic and Tamazight (the Berber language) are the main languages spoken in Morocco. Many people also speak French.

The landscape in Morocco is very diverse. There are high mountains like the Atlas Mountains and large deserts like the Sahara. These different landscapes provide a habitat for many animals. Morocco is a kingdom. The king is Mohammed VI. A special plant in Morocco is the Argan tree.

These trees are found almost exclusively in Morocco. Argan oil is produced from their fruit. Many people use it for cooking, but also for cosmetics, for example, for skin and hair.

The flag of Morocco is red. In the center is a green star.



Many different fruits grow in Morocco. These include olives, dates, figs, almonds, walnuts, bananas, and peaches. Popular dishes are couscous, Tagine, and Harira. Tagine is a stew of meat, vegetables, and spices. Harira is a soup with lentils and chickpeas. Many people enjoy drinking sweet mint tea with their meals.



The main religion in Morocco is Islam. However, Christians and Jews also live there. The capital of Morocco is Rabat. Other major cities include Casablanca and Marrakech.

The currency in Morocco is the Dirham. Roughly speaking, 1 Euro ≈ 10 Dirhams. This means that 10 Euros are approximately 100 Dirhams.

Morocco is home to many animals that are mostly only found in zoos in Germany, or not at all. These include, for example, African wildcats, dama gazelles, camels, striped hyenas, golden jackals, Barbary macaques, desert falcons, desert monitors, elephant shrews, Ethiopian hedgehogs, scorpions, and various snakes. White storks, alpine choughs, Barbary sheep, genets, sheep, and cattle also live there.

Authors: Henner, Lotti, Kaja, Elias, Tilda

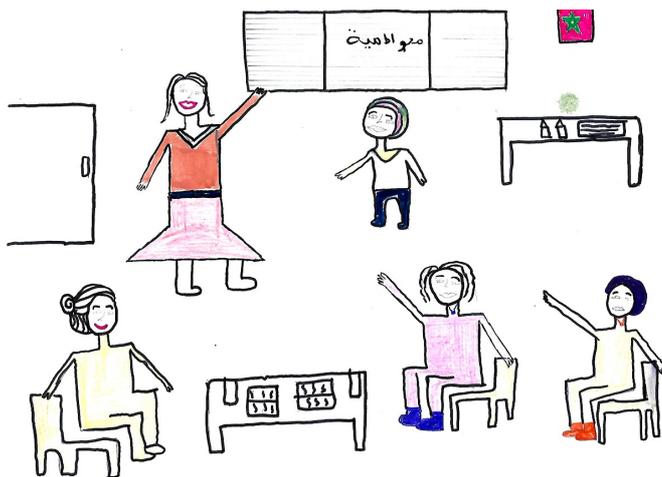
Morocco

Girls belong in school!

Every child has rights. For example, the right to education, to leisure time, and to express their opinion. These rights apply to all children in the world.

But unfortunately, not all children can exercise these rights. In some villages, some girls have to work instead of going to school. Some work as domestic help for other families.

Often, parents don't know how important school is for girls. Sometimes there isn't enough money for notebooks, pens, or school uniforms. That's why some families send their daughters to work.



But girls have dreams. They want to learn, play, and have a career later on. If they have to work, they don't have time for that. Some even experience harsh or unfair treatment.

We believe: Girls belong in school, not at work. Parents and everyone should know how important education is. Families in rural areas need support so their children can learn.

Every girl has the right to education!

Authors: Aisha, Hiba, Salma, Khadija

Every child needs a home!

When we walk through the city, we sometimes see children who don't have a home. They are called street children or homeless children. This is a big problem.

There are various reasons why children live on the street. Often, families are very poor. Some parents don't have money for food or housing. In some families, there are major problems or arguments. Some children grow up in foster homes and later have to leave without a new home.

Living on the street is very dangerous. These children don't have a safe place to sleep. They are exposed to dangers such as violence, crime, or drugs. Instead of going to school or being with their families, they have to fight for survival every day.



It's not easy to completely solve this problem. But there is help. For example, shelters are being built for homeless children, and poor families receive support. This is important so that children don't have to live on the street.

We believe: Every child needs a home, protection, and the opportunity to go to school. No child should be alone on the street.

Authors: Huda, Maria, Yasmina, Fadwa, Fatiha, Elias

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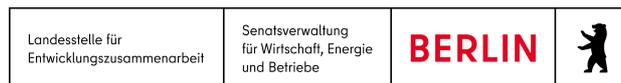
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