Pakistan has ratified (pledged to follow) the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that Pakistan must respect the rights of the child and listen to what children have to say. Are the rights of the child respected in Pakistan? You and other children in Pakistan are the experts.

**78 MILLION CHILDREN**
193.2 million people live in Pakistan. More than 78 million are children, and 24.9 million of the children are under five years old.

**NAME AND NATIONALITY**
From the day you are born you have the right to have a name and to be registered as a citizen in your country. Almost 5.4 million children are born every year in Pakistan. 7 out of 10 of them are never registered. There is no documented proof that they exist!

**SURVIVE AND GROW**
You have the right to life. Pakistan must do all it can to allow children to survive and develop. 1 out of 12 children in Pakistan (424,000 every year) dies before the age of 5, usually due to causes that could have been prevented.

**HEALTH**
You have the right to food, clean water, medical care and the right to privacy when consulting an adult about any health problem. 9 out of 10 children in Pakistan use basic drinking water services. 6 out of 10 children use basic sanitation services.

**PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE**
You have the right to protection against all forms of violence, including neglect, maltreatment and abuse. Only 58 countries have forbidden all forms of corporal punishment for children. Pakistan has not. Many schools still allow caning.

**A HOME, CLOTHING, FOOD AND SECURITY**
You have the right to a home, food, clothing, education, health care and security. Almost 1 out of 10 children in Pakistan live in extreme poverty with less than 1.90 US-dollar (295 Pakistan Rupees) a day to live on.

**HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR**
You have the right to be protected against both economic exploitation and work that is hazardous to your health or which prevents you from going to school. All work is prohibited for children under 12. Some children are forced into the worst forms of child labour, such as being debt slaves, child soldiers or used for commercial sexual exploitation. A large number of children in Pakistan have to work.

**EDUCATION**
You have the right to go to school. Primary and secondary schools should be free for everyone. 7 out of 10 children in Pakistan go to school, but many of them leave school too early.

**YOUR VOICE MUST BE HEARD**
You have the right to say what you think about any issue that affects you. The adults should listen to the child’s opinion before they make decisions, which must always be made in the best interest of the child!

Sources: Unicef. Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children.