

Why is it important /crucial/imperative that the US ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)?

1. Because our failure to ratify the CRC is a failure to stand up for all children everywhere and undermines our leadership for protecting children.
2. Failure to ratify is a failure to recognize and address the plight of all children (see stats on children: US and international)
3. Ratification would enhance our role as an international leader in human rights, while the lack of ratification undercuts our influence and our international leadership.
4. With US ratification, the most powerful nation on earth, the world could stand united to promote and protect children's rights
5. With US ratification we would finally be eligible to participate in the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and bolster international child advocacy efforts.

From a Human Rights Watch overview of failure of U.S. to ratify many human rights treaties:

“With a new administration and Congress, the United States has an important opportunity to reposition itself as a global leader on human rights. One means towards that goal is to sign and ratify core human rights treaties. Chief among these are international conventions relating to children, women, persons with disabilities, torture, enforced disappearance and the use of anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions.

“These key treaties protect some of the world's most vulnerable populations... Failure of the US to join with other nations in taking on international human rights legal obligations has undercut its international leadership on key issues, limiting its influence, its stature, and its credibility in promoting respect for human rights around the world.”

