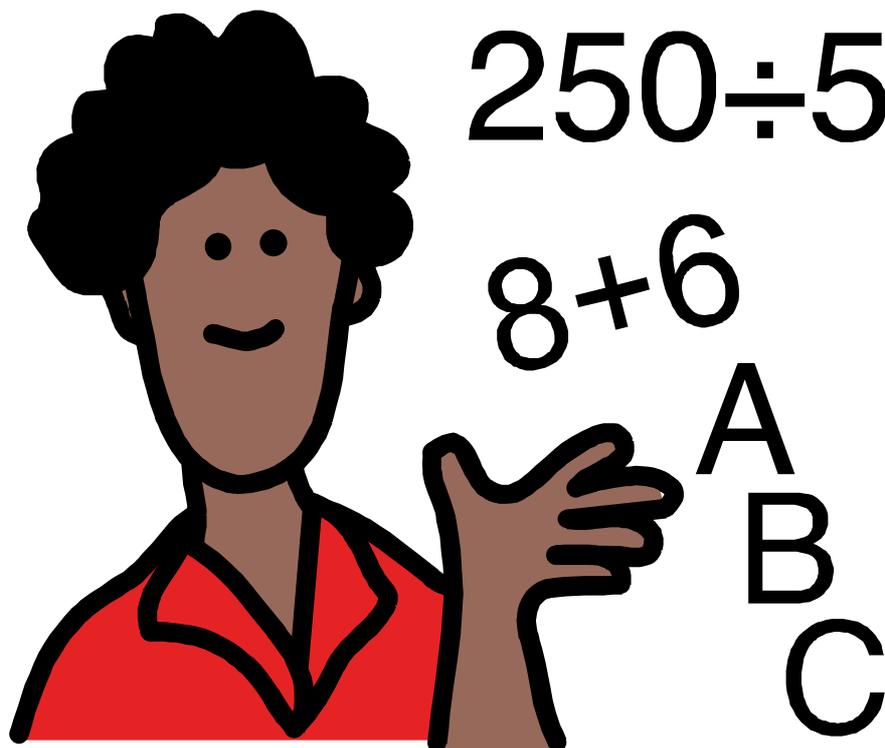


**Making sure all children in the world  
can go to school and get  
a good education**







## Who we are

We are called Human Rights Watch.

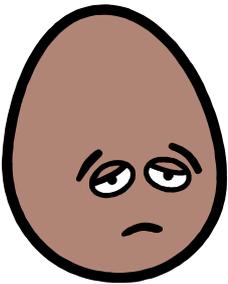


We work to make sure everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.



## What is this report about?

All children have the right to go to school and get a good education.



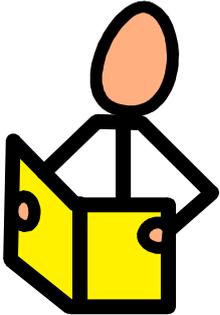
But this is still not happening for many children in the world.



This is wrong. Countries should make sure all children can go to school.



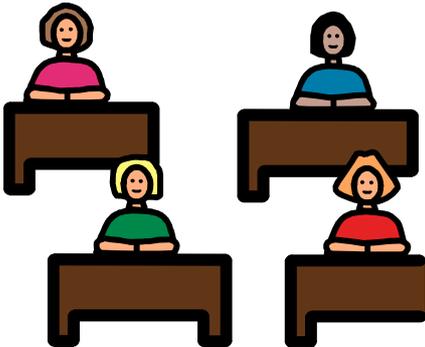
We looked at what is happening in lots of countries in the world.



This report looks at:

- what is happening with children and education in the world
- what we think should happen next

## What is happening with children and education?

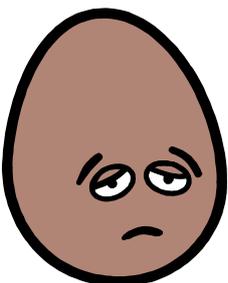


More children in the world now go to primary and secondary school.

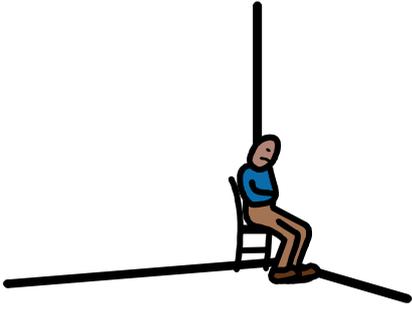
For example, more children in poorer countries go to school.



This is good.

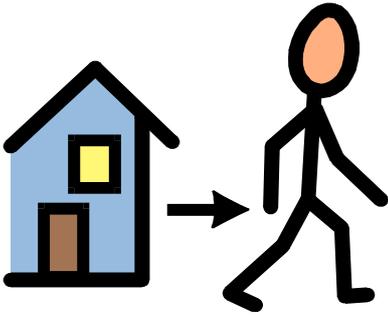


But many children are still not in school.



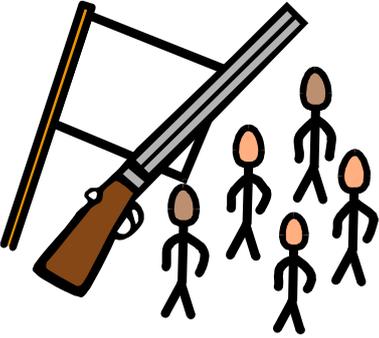
Some children may never get the chance to go to school.

For example, many children with disabilities do not go to school.



Many children have to stop going to school.

This may be because of:



- wars or other big problems in the country



- people forcing them to do things like get married, work or fight in wars

There are other problems:

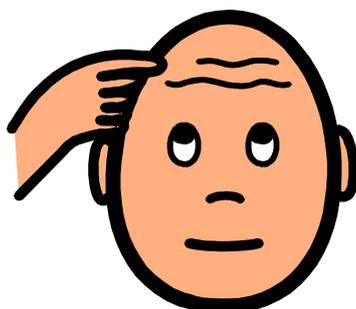
For example, many countries are not doing enough to:



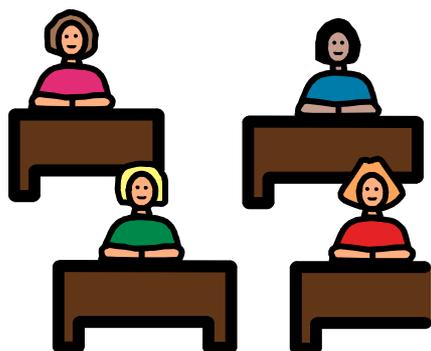
- make sure all children are treated fairly and are allowed to go to school



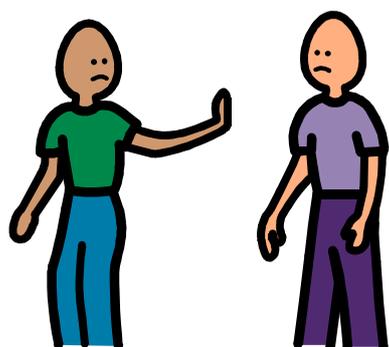
- make good laws about this



- check to make sure children are going to school and can finish their education



- make sure children can go to primary and secondary school



Many schools can choose which children go there.

This means they can say no to some children. But this should not happen.

## Why is education important?



Education is very important for children and for the world.

It can help people:

- have enough money to live on and stop being poor



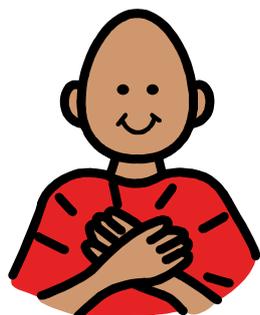
- have the skills they need to get a job and do well



- join in with things and have a say

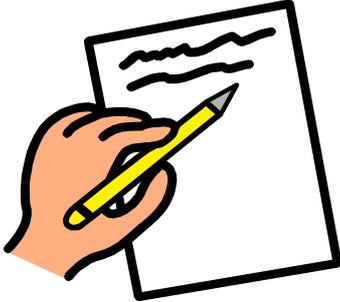


- be more healthy



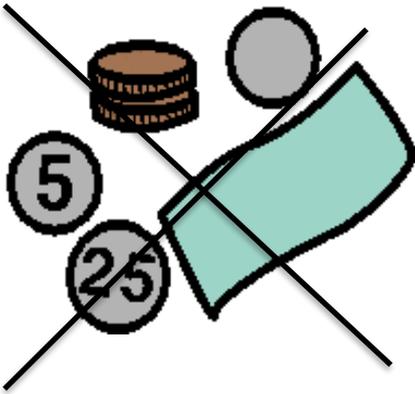
- keep safe from people hurting them or forcing them to do things

## What should countries be doing?



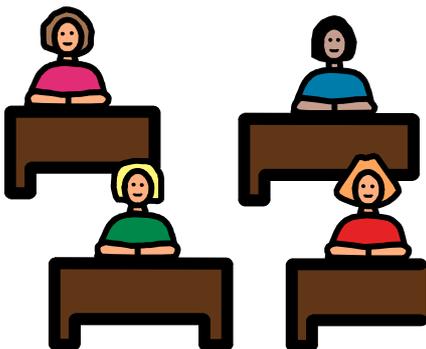
Many countries have promised to make sure all children can go to school and get a good education.

They signed important documents about this.



Countries should make sure all children go to primary school.

This should be free.



Countries should work to make secondary education free for all children.

And make sure all children can go to secondary school.

Countries should work to solve problems that stop children going to school.

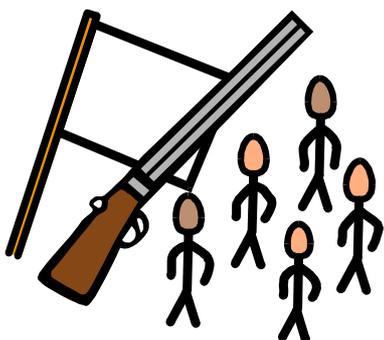


For example, they should make sure:

- families can afford to send children to school



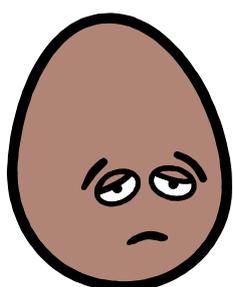
- all children are safe at school and are treated fairly



- bad things do not happen to children, like leaving school to get married, go to work or fight in wars



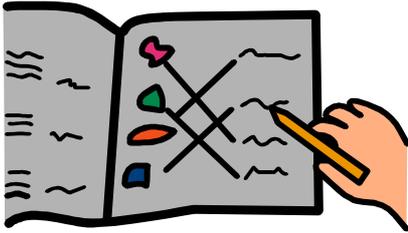
The world should be working to make sure all children can go to school.



But many countries are not doing enough.

## What should happen next

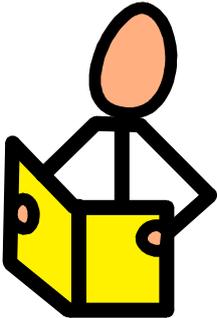
We want all countries to:



- get good information about who is going to school in their countries



This information should show what is happening to different groups of children, like girls and children with disabilities



- make sure other people can see this information



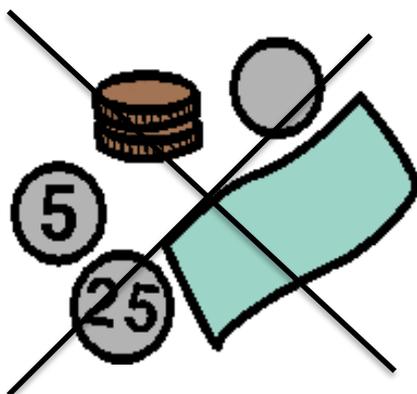
- make sure the laws say that all children have the right to go to primary and secondary school

And that all children must go to primary school

We want all countries to:

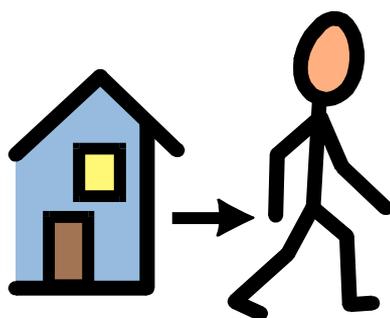


- make sure all children are treated fairly
- make sure children with disabilities get the support they need to go to school

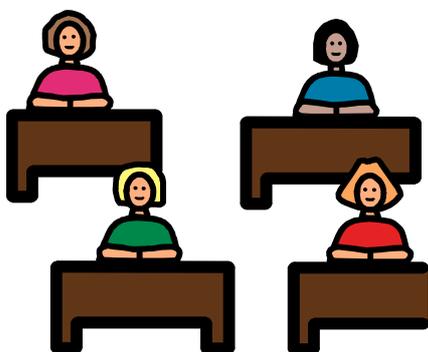


- make sure primary school is free
- make sure going to school does not cost too much money.

This means helping children who cannot pay for things like books, uniforms and transport to go to school



- make sure children do not have to leave school because they cannot pay for it

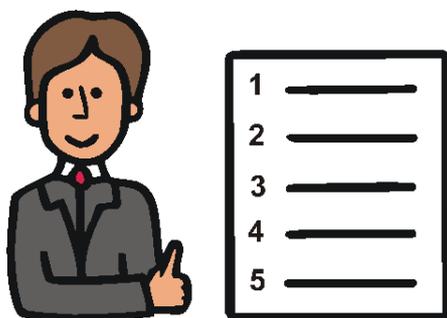


- make sure all children can go to primary school

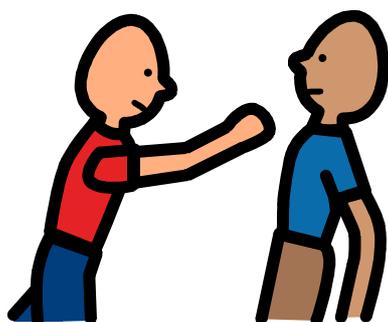
Check to make sure this happens

And solve problems that stop children going to primary school

We want all countries to:



- make plans to make sure secondary school is free



- stop bad things happening to children in schools

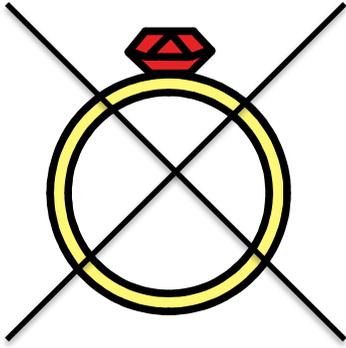
For example, stop children being hurt or treated badly by other children or teachers



- make sure all children are safe at school and that people can get into trouble if they do bad things to children

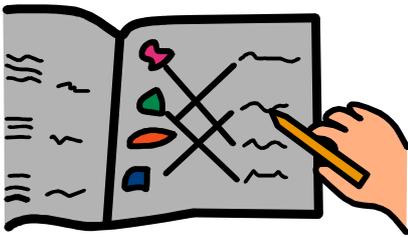


- make sure all children learn about sex and safe relationships at school

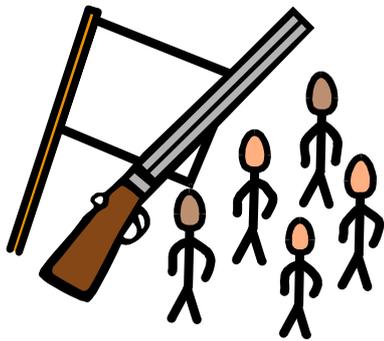


We want all countries to:

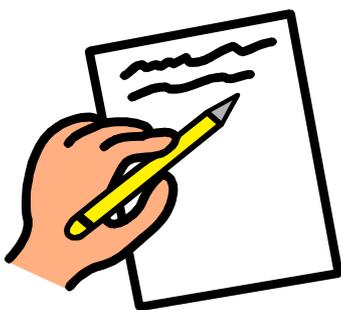
- make it illegal for children to get married before they are 18



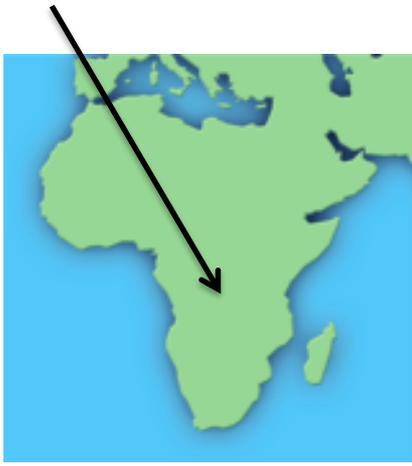
- check that this is happening



- make sure children can still go to school when there are wars or big problems in the country

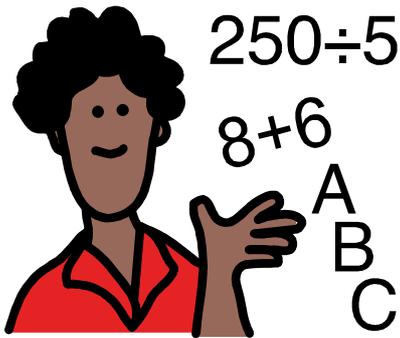


- agree to do what some important documents say about the rights of all children



## Peter's story

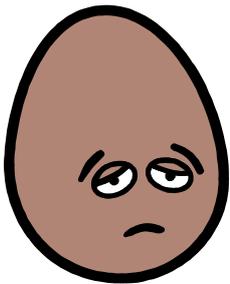
Peter is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is a country in Africa.



He used to go to school.



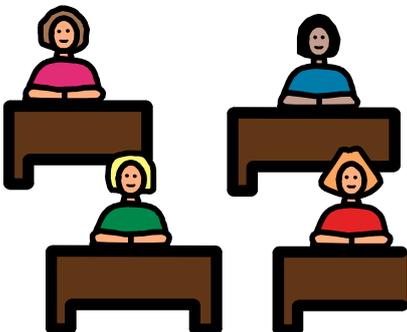
But he had to leave school because his parents could not afford to send him there any more.



He started hanging around on the streets looking for something to do.

He says life is hard on the streets.

There is not enough food to eat and he is hungry.



He is sad because he wants to go back to school and finish his education.

His country should make sure he can go back to school.

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