



Human Rights

CONTENT

- Overview of human rights
- Different conventions and rights
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)



WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, sexual orientation, or any other status.

Everyone is entitled to these rights, **without discrimination**.



WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights include:

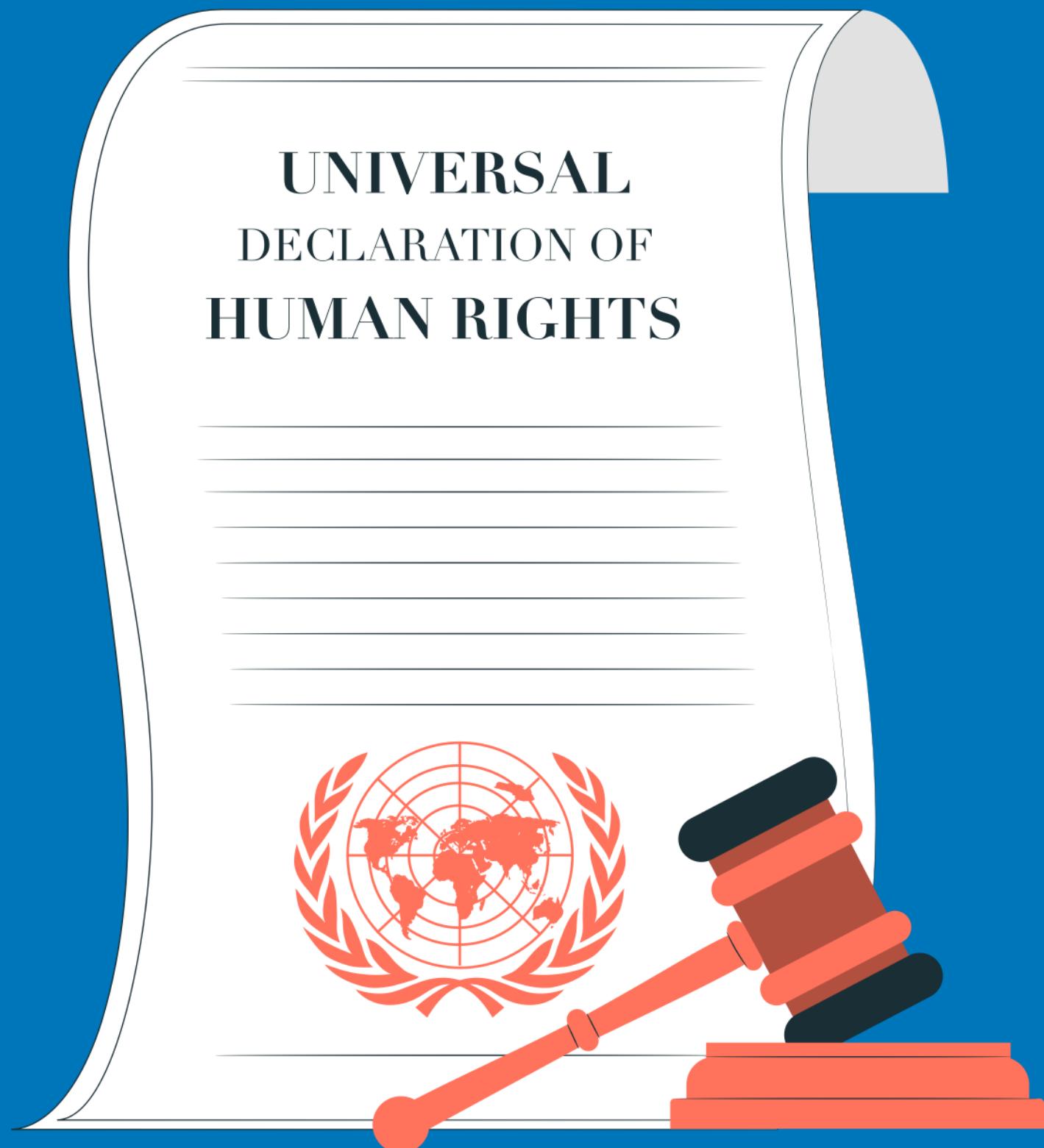
- The right to life and liberty
- The right to freedom from slavery and torture
- The right to freedom of opinion and expression
- The right to work and education



EXAMPLES OF RIGHTS

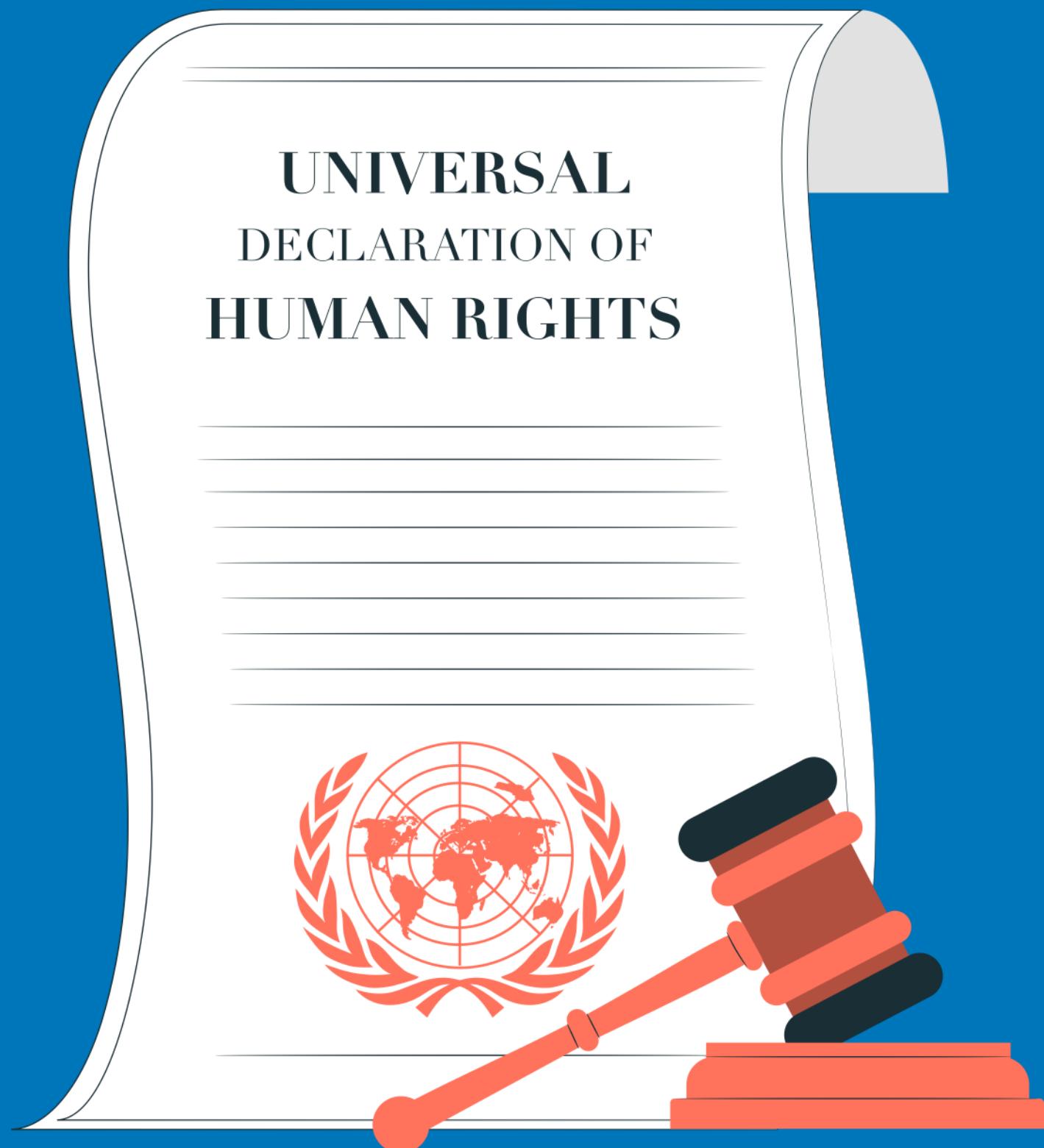
Human rights include:

- Right to life
- Prohibition of discrimination
- Prohibition of slavery and forced labour
- Prohibition of torture
- Right to be recognised as a person
- Prohibition of arbitrary detention
- Right to fair trial
- Right to nationality
- Right to privacy and family life
- Liberty of movement
- Right to asylum
- Right to marry and establish a family



EXAMPLES OF RIGHTS

- Right to property
- Liberty of opinions, thoughts and religion
- Liberty of expression and speech
- Liberty of assembly and association
- Right to participate
- Right to social security
- Right to employment
- Right to adequate level of life
- Right to rest and leisure
- Right to education
- Right to participate in cultural life and society
- Right to development



EXAMPLES OF RIGHTS

- Human Rights are **individuals' rights** that can not be violated
- The **state** must protect the human rights and basic freedoms of **its citizens**.
- Human rights carry basic responsibility of rights holders and obligations of duty bearers



HISTORY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS

1215: The Magna Carta - gave people new **rights** and made the **king** subject to the law

1628: The Petition of Right - Set out the rights of the people

1776: The United States Declaration of Independence - Proclaimed the right to **life**, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

1789: The Declaration of Rights of Man and of the Citizen - a document of France, stating that all citizens are equal under the law

The First Geneva Convention (1864) - The main **principles** laid down in the Convention provided for the **obligation to extend care without discrimination** to wounded and sick military personal

1948: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights - The first document listing the 30 rights to which everyone is entitled

THE MODERN HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAWS



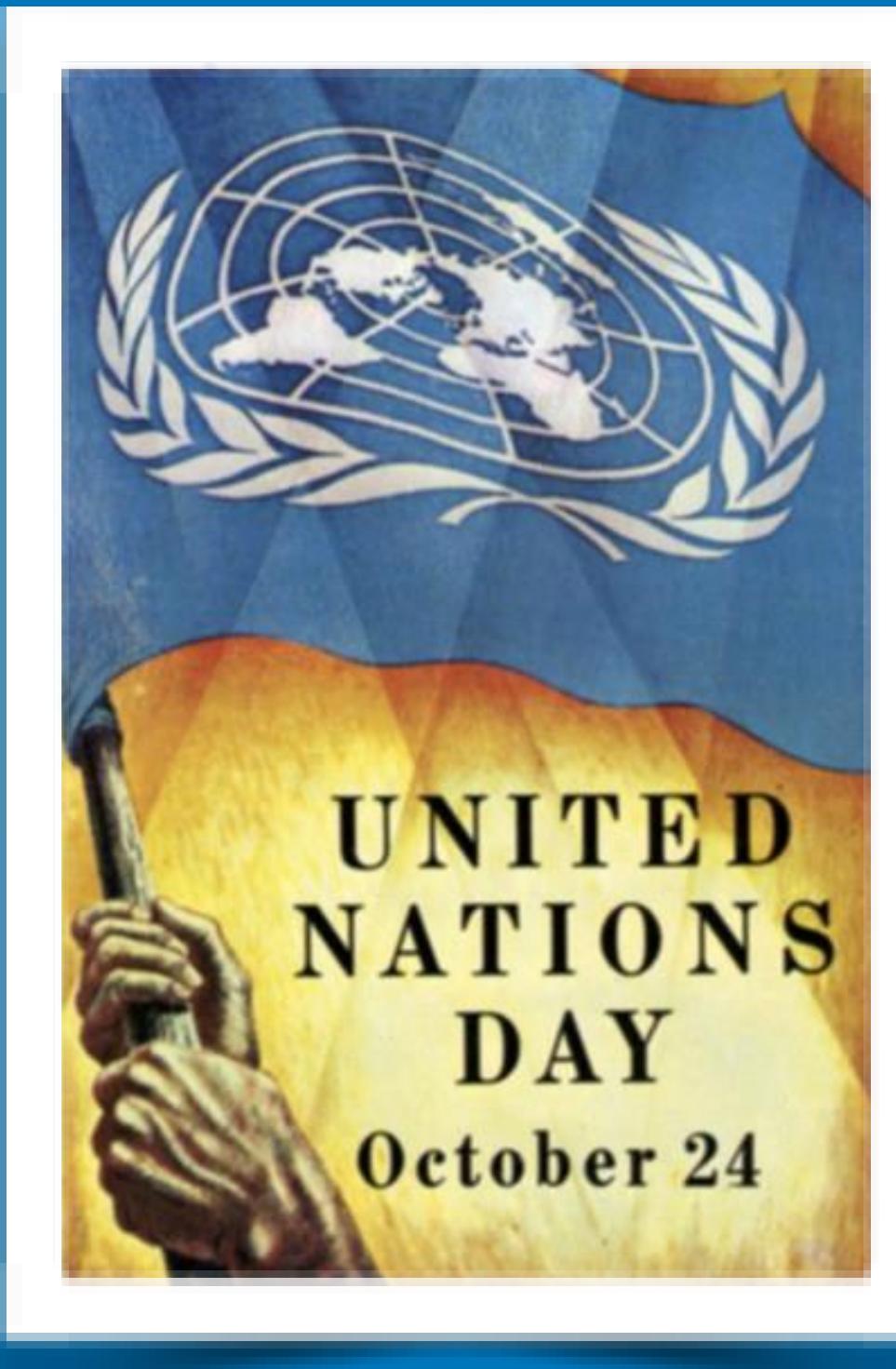
The birth of the United Nations

THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- The idea of human rights emerged stronger after **World War II**.
- Governments then committed themselves to establishing the United Nations, with the goal of supporting international peace and preventing conflict.
- In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter.
- The Charter was signed on **26 June 1945** by the representatives of the 50 countries.



THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS



**Came into existence
24 October 1945**

**United Nations Day is
celebrated
on 24 October**

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



On December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the 56 members of the United Nations.

THE INTERNATIONAL BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

+

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

+

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

+

Two Optional Protocols.



CLASSIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

Legally binding

States change
their own law or
create new ones
to comply with
the international
law

**Conventions,
covenants**

**Not legally
binding**

Guidelines
that State
parties respect

**Declarations, principles,
standard rules,
resolutions,
recommendations**



Laws

Binding
means that the parties are **obligated to carry out the provisions of the laws and documents.**

A non-binding
means that the parties are **not legally obligated to carry out its terms.**



UN Laws

Binding

1966: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

1966: International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights

1979: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

1989: Convention on the Rights of the Child

2006: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Non-binding

1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights



BUILD A DEAF
ORGANISATION

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES (LEGALLY BINDING)

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1955)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)

Convention against Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007)

NOT LEGALLY BINDING

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

Protection against abuses of power

Right to vote

Right to life

Freedom of association

Right to marry

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

Enables the individual to live a decent life and to fulfill essential needs

Right to work

Right to health

Right to education

Right to cultural identity

TWENTY TREATIES ELABORATING HUMAN RIGHTS

There are twenty conventions to prevent and prohibit specific abuses and protect specific vulnerable populations

Each of these treaties have a committee to monitor implementation of the treaty



Prevent and prohibit specific abuses such as torture or genocide

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
= Treaty defining and prohibiting torture

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)
= Treaty defining and prohibiting racial discrimination

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)
= Treaty preventing and punishing genocide

Protect specific vulnerable populations

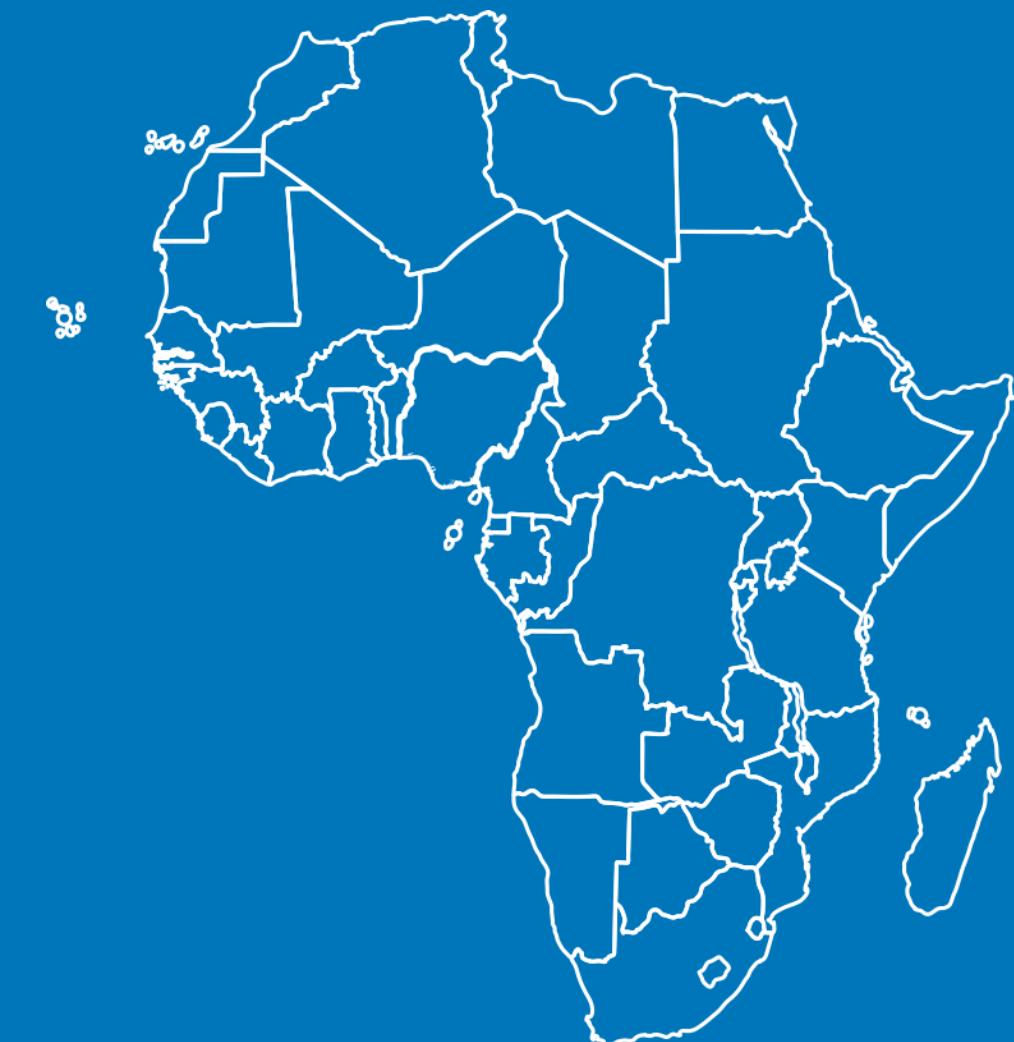
Refugees: Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
= Treaty defining and protecting the rights of refugees

Women: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
= Prohibits discrimination against women and obligates governments to take action to increase the equality of women

Children: Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
= Civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights for children

REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

- European Convention on Human Rights (1950)
- American Convention on Human Rights (1969)
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)



CRPD

Persons with disabilities were denied their human rights

650 million people with disabilities in the world

Of those, 80 % live in developing countries

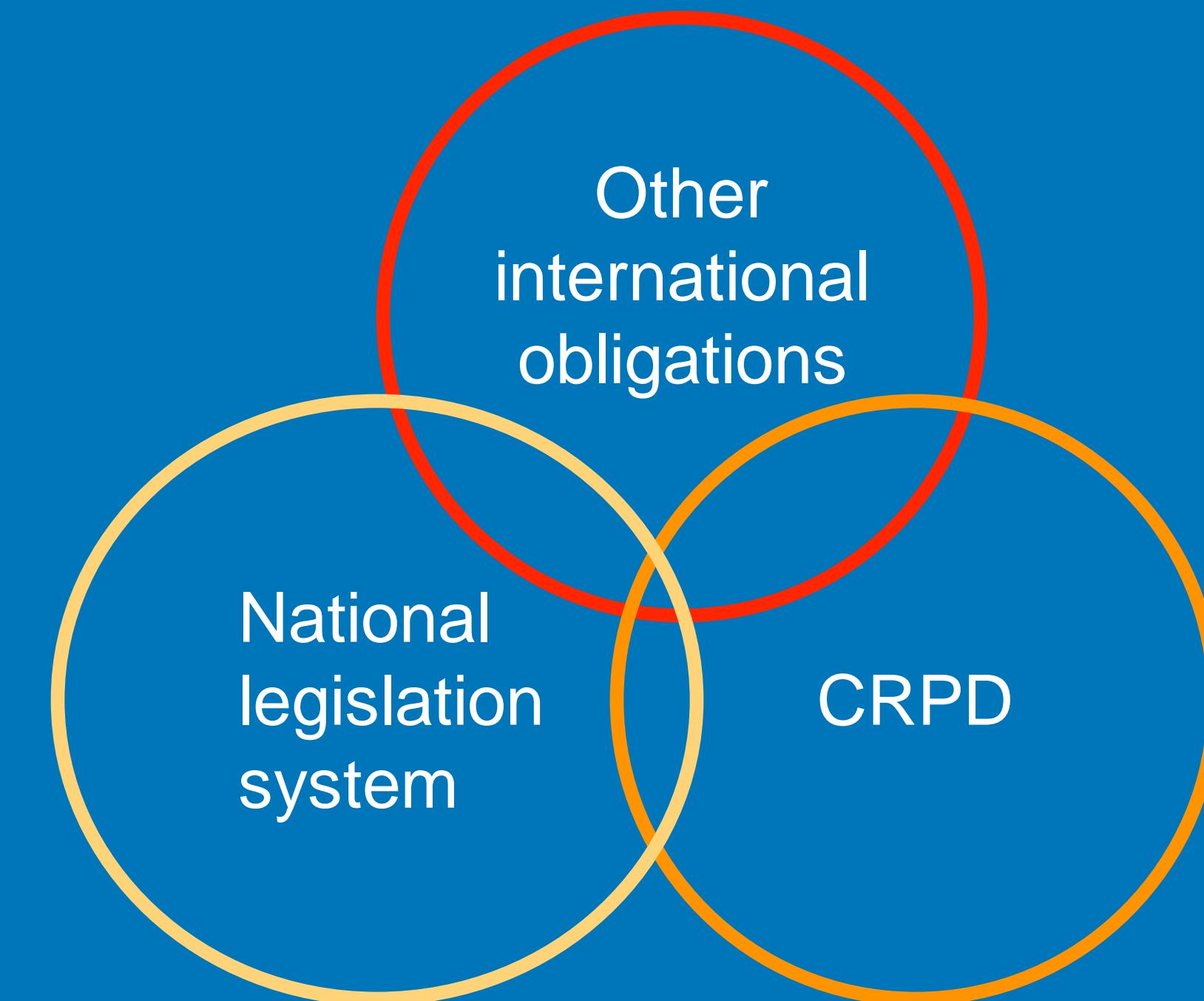
90 % of children with disabilities in developing countries do not attend school



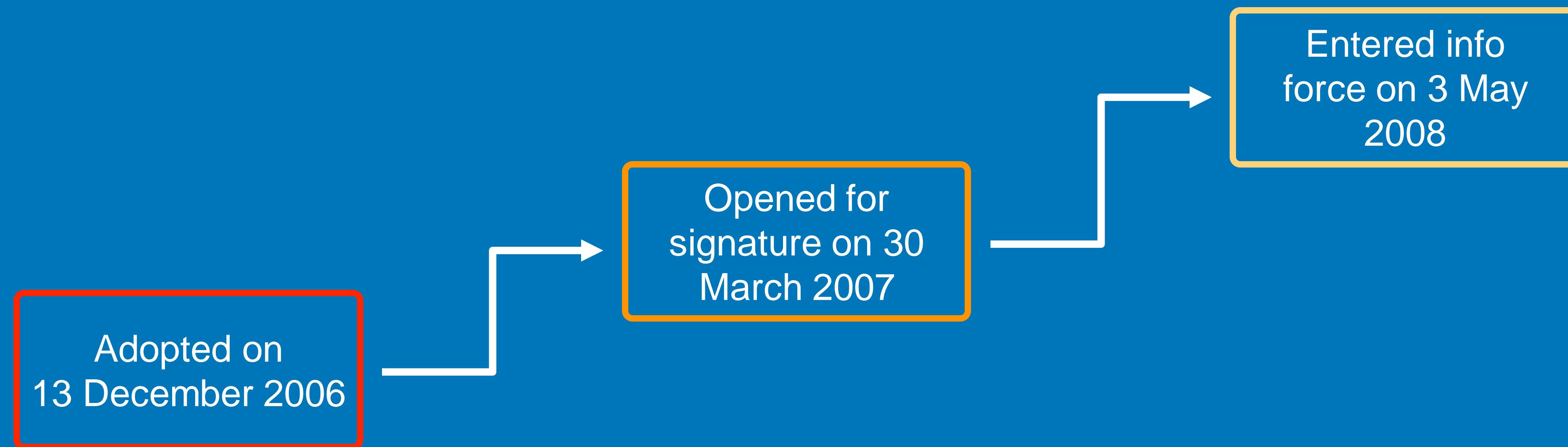
Promote and protect rights
Does not create new rights

CRPD

The CRPD aligns with other international obligations and national legislation system.



THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



CRPD + DEAF COMMUNITY



Deaf people need the convention because human rights norms are not reaching deaf people.

Strengthen the position of sign languages and deaf people's human rights

Changes deaf people's lives after it has been ratified and implemented in national legislation

Shifts the focus from the medical perspective to human rights model of disability.

WHY THE CPRD IS IMPORTANT FOR DEAF PEOPLE?

1. Recognises sign languages as languages and considers them equal to spoken languages
2. Guarantees a right to get professional sign language interpreters
3. Guarantees a right to interact in sign languages, to get information and to express oneself in sign languages also in official interactions
4. Urges to recognize sign languages and to facilitate the use of sign languages
5. Facilitates learning in sign languages and promotes linguistic identity of deaf community.
6. Ensures that states take responsibility to employ teachers who are qualified in sign languages, the most appropriate linguistic learning environment, skilled personnel and staff and education material.
7. Entitles the deaf to the recognition of sign languages, deaf culture and linguistic identity

MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLES FOR DEAF PEOPLE

- Non-discrimination because of language and linguistic rights mentioned in many items of the convention starting from the preamble
- Sign language mentioned 8 times in 5 different articles

Article 2: Definition

Article 9: Accessibility

Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Article 24: Education

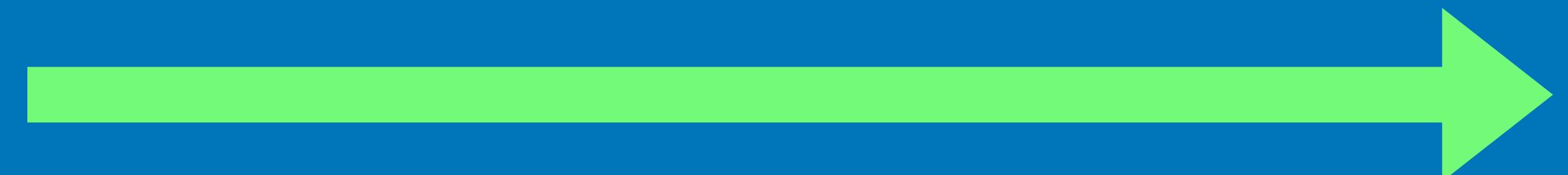
Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport

PARADIGM SHIFT: FROM MEDICAL MODEL OF DISABILITY TO SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY

Medical Model:
Disability is defined by the impairment

CRPD

Social Model:
Disability is defined as the barriers impeding persons to be included in society



Article 2: Definition

Five Sub-Definitions:

1. Communication
2. Language
3. Discrimination on the basis of disability
4. Reasonable accommodation
5. Universal design

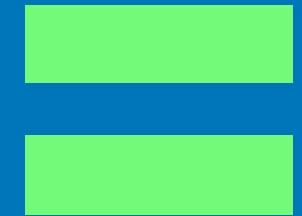
Definition on language is the following:

“Language” includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non spoken languages.

= sign languages are considered equal to spoken languages

ARTICLE 9: ACCESSIBILITY

9.2(e): “Provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public”



“Professional sign language interpreters” means that states have responsibilities to promote and develop sign language interpreter training, degree, registration and to facilitate interpreter services and to promote access to interpreters..

ARTICLE 21: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

21 (b) *“Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interaction”*



Deaf people must have the right to submit a document in sign language and to receive a response in sign language

Deaf people have the right to act and to receive information in court and police

Right to receive information about their health in sign language

Right to have education provided in sign language

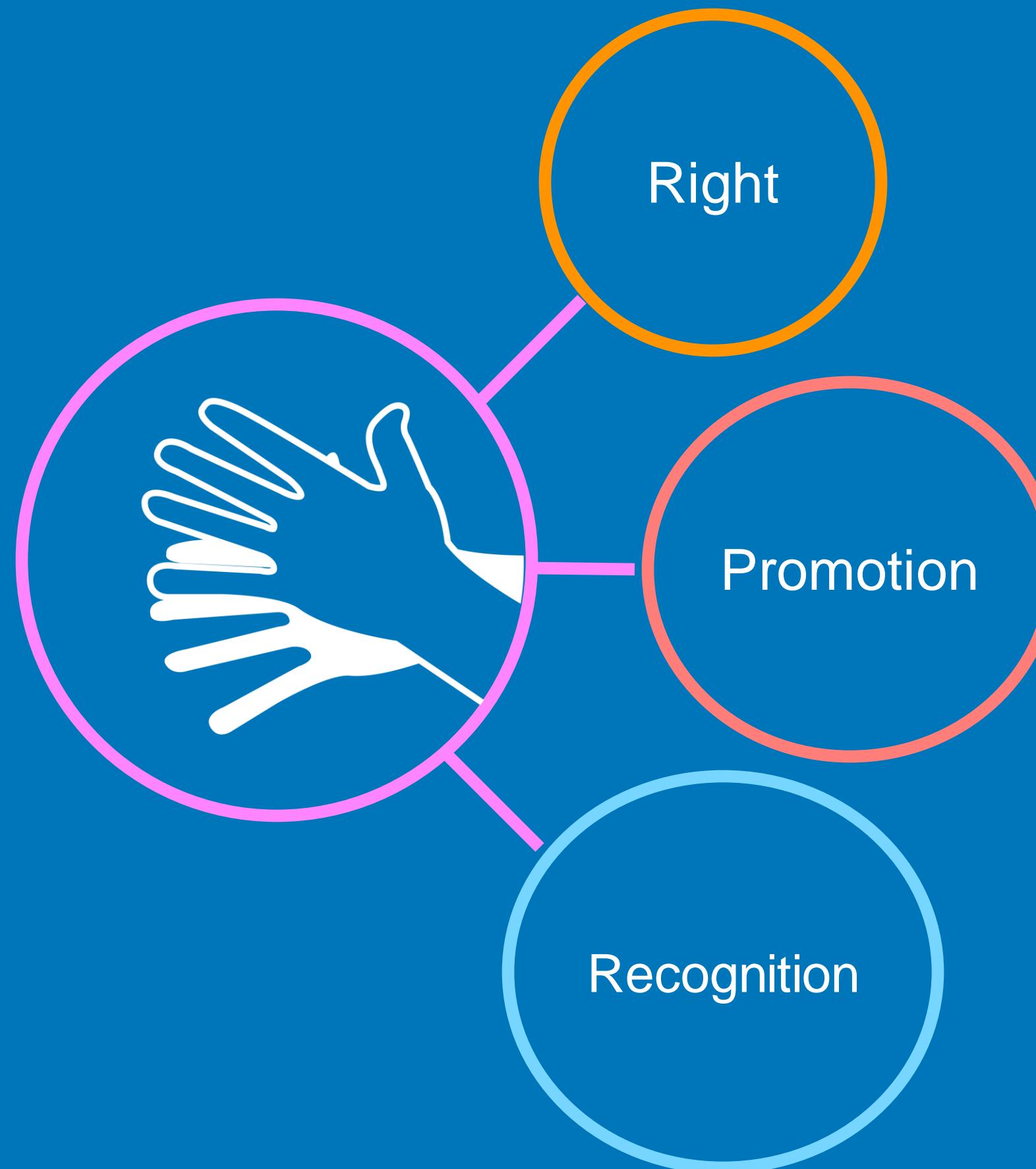
Right to have sign language interpreters at their workplace

Right to have accessible information

Right to get consumer instruction in sign language

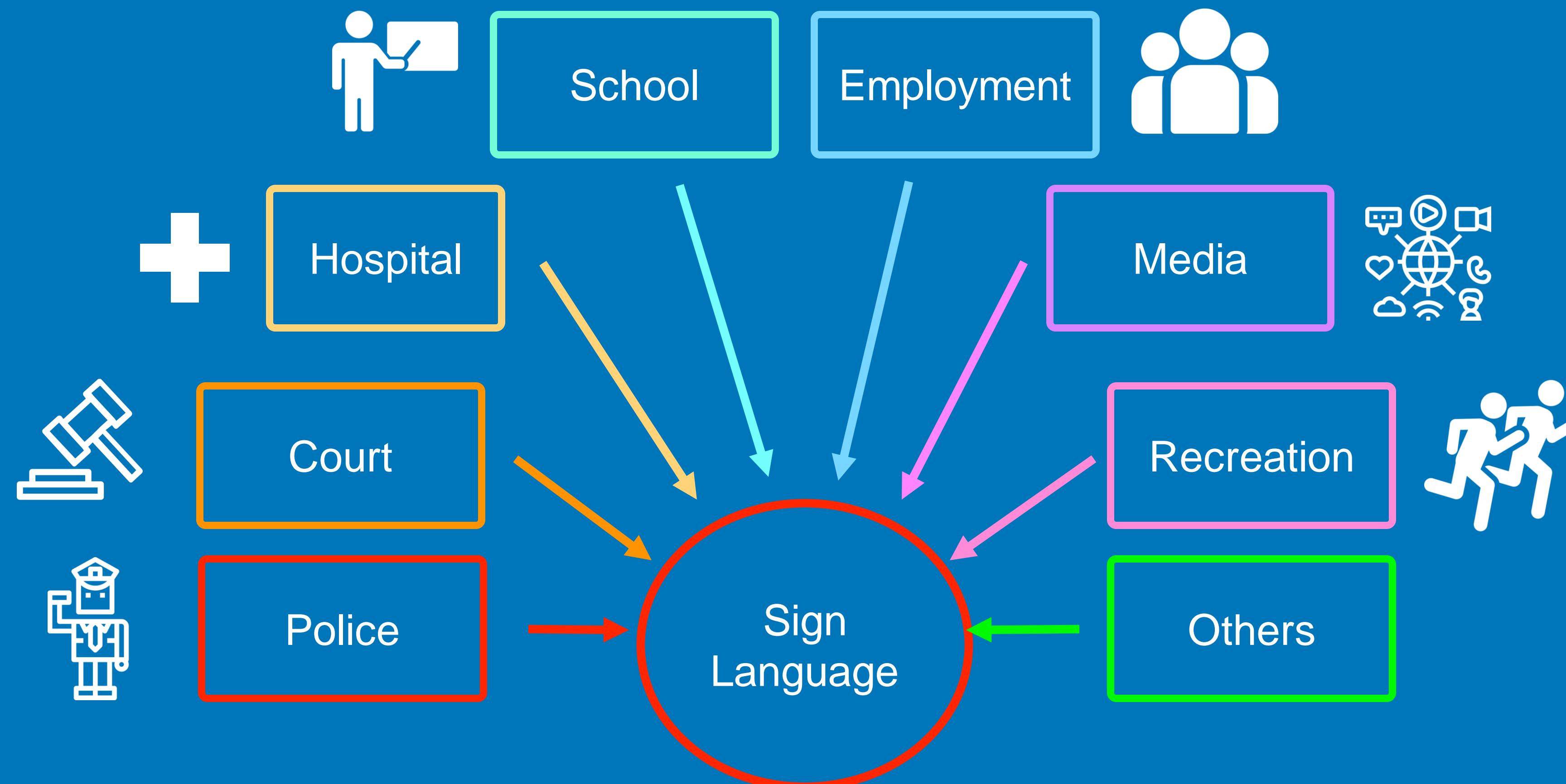
Right to receive treatment and other services in sign language

ARTICLE 21: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION



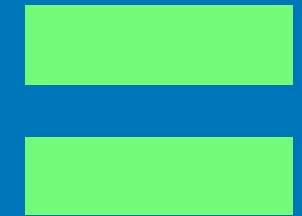
- To submit a document and receive a response in SL
- To act and to receive information in court, police, hospital, offices in SL
- To receive treatment and other services in SL
- Support for SL publications, education, research and general use
- Deaf children's right to use SL
- SL to be recognized in either legislation or public policies and programs
- SL is not only a language used by deaf in their interaction but to be approved in official interactions too

ARTICLE 21: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION



ARTICLE 21: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

21 (e) *“Recognising and promoting the use of sign languages”*



Sign language should be recognised in legislation or in public policies and programs
Deaf people of all ages have the right to use sign language
Deaf children should not be forced to change their language while growing up
Promotion of sign language = support for sign language publications, education, research and general usage

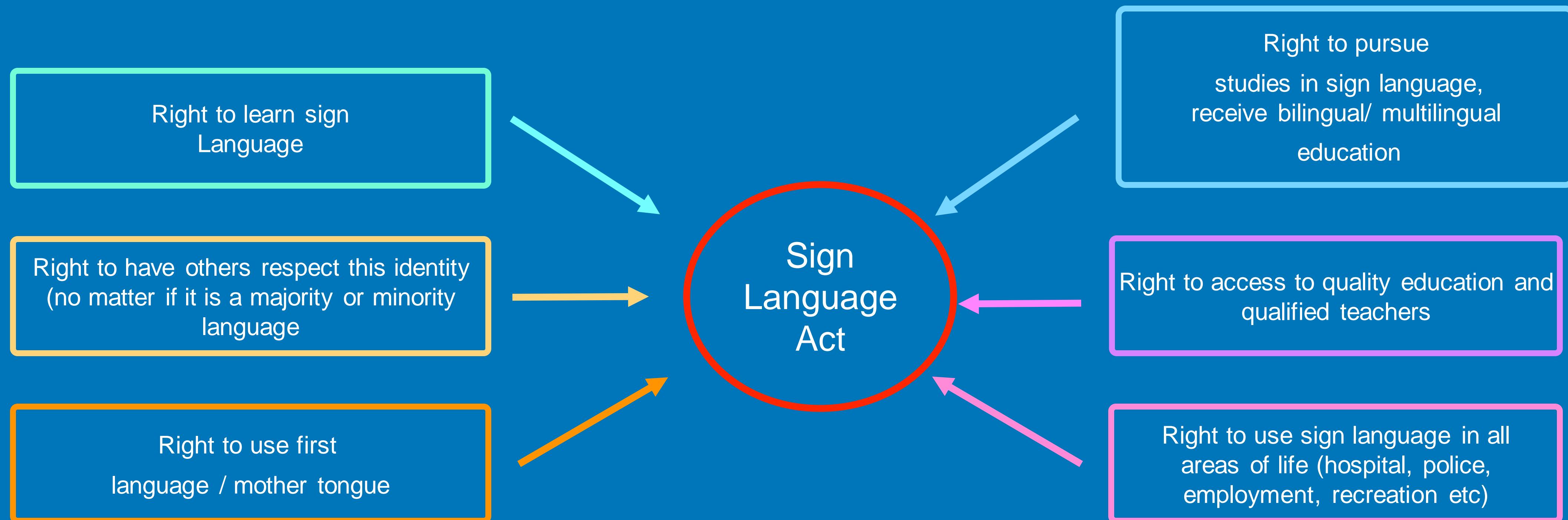
ARTICLE 21: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

21 (e) *“Recognising and promoting the use of sign languages”*



Right to use first language/mother tongue
Right to learn sign language
Right to pursue studies in sign language and receive bilingual/multilingual education
Right to access to quality education and qualified teachers
Right to use sign language in all areas of life, such as hospital, police, employment, culture

21(e) Recognising and promoting the use of sign languages.



ARTICLE 24: EDUCATION

24.3 (b) “*Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community*”

This article is important because the usage of sign language should not be prohibited in learning

However, this is unfortunately a sad reality in the majority of countries

ARTICLE 24: EDUCATION

24.4: “*In order to help ensure the realisation of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities*”



For deaf and deaf-blind people, the sentence “*teachers ... who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille*”, is very important. Quality of sign language skills is a central requirement

ARTICLE 24: EDUCATION



ARTICLE 30: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL LIFE, RECREATION, LEASURE, SPORT

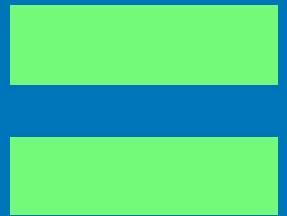
30.1: “*States parties recognise the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life*”



TV programs, movies, theatre and other cultural activities and cultural venues and places (such as museums) and information should be accessible

ARTICLE 30: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL LIFE, RECREATION, LEASURE, SPORT

30.4: *“Persons with disabilities shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture”*



Equal rights for cultural participation
Recognition and support for sign languages
and deaf culture