



## Position Statement on the Endorsement of U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The American Psychoanalytic Association (APSA) urges the United States to endorse the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Among the United Nations member countries, the United States and Somalia stand alone in not ratifying this important Convention.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989. The CRC establishes a comprehensive set of goals for individual nations to achieve on behalf of children (defined as those under 18 years of age). It consists of a compilation and clarification of children's human rights, describing the necessary environment and means for each child to develop to his or her full potential. It calls for the provision of specific resources, skills, and contributions necessary to ensure the survival and development of children to their maximum capability. It also requires the creation of means to protect children from neglect, exploitation, and abuse. It restricts the involvement of children in military conflicts, and prohibits the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. It sets an agenda for action to protect and ensure these rights.

Psychoanalytic theory and practice is founded on the importance of early childhood experience and the necessity of a protective and nourishing environment that allows and fosters the child's unhindered growth and development. Neglect, exploitation, and abuse stand in direct opposition to these conditions for emotional and physical health. The CRC promotes these essential conditions.

Psychoanalytic theory and practice has provided an understanding of the protective and nurturing needs of the child, provided by a protective and nurturing environment, essential for the healthy unfolding of human personality and development. To this aim, APSA fully supports endorsement by the United States of the ratification of the CRC.

*Adopted June 2013.*