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**Subject:** Please adopt the Convention on the Rights of the Child at a City, County and state level.  
**Date:** February 11, 2016 at 12:29:04 PM CST  
**To:** [parisi@countyofdane.com](mailto:parisi@countyofdane.com), Rep Chris Taylor <[rep.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov)>, "Sen. Risser" <[Sen.Risser@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Risser@legis.wisconsin.gov)>

Hello to the leaders of my community!

Mayor Soglin, County Executive Parisi, Rep. Taylor and Sen. Risser!  
Thank you again and again and again and again for all you do for me, my family and neighbors, you bring me hope.

I just got back from a Child Care Forum with the City and am inspired to get this to you now because I know it takes time to create resolutions at the City, County and State levels. I would like to propose that we work together to adopt the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at each level within the City, County and State and our goal is to proclaim it on June 5th of this year.

With the exception of the Native American community most families identify with one or more of the many nations in the United Nations. If our guiding principles reflect values that the world community set 26 years ago for the rights of children, we create an inclusive approach to child rearing. As of last October the US is now the ONLY nation not to ratify the CRC even though Obama stated on his first campaign trail that he wanted to see it get ratified. In 2009 Sen Boxer tried to do so, with support from Sen Bernie Sanders, yet it still isn't done. I understand through my research that one of the biggest issues preventing it from being ratified is around the perception that parents would lose their autonomy and specifically in regards to the use corporal punishment. Why it is illegal for adults to hit each other yet still perfectly legal for adults to hit children here in Madison, Dane County, the State of Wisconsin and the US, I will never know. But if we create a forum, that we can all agree to work on we might be able to address many issues that are related to the best child rearing practices in a manner that is acceptable to most families. If we adopt the CRC, and use it as a guide, we will then look at how we use our resources and what we need to do to address our shortcomings through that lens. We must find a path that will include all, or at least most, of our families so that we can work together as we grapple with racial equity and I strongly believe that this is a great path to do so. Here is the UN CRC: <<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>>.

**Amnesty International describes the CRC as calling for children's rights to adequate food, education, and health care; freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation; equal treatment regardless of gender, race or cultural background; the right to express themselves and have safe access to play, culture and art.**

What I want from you is to create a resolution, law, whatever is possible within your jurisdiction that embraces the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child so that others in our community can learn about it and that we can use it as a guide to deal with the many issues we face in regards to how we raise the children in our community and the challenges that come in our diverse communities.

Thank you again for all you do for our community,  
Oma Vic McMurray  
[http://host.madison.com/ct/opinion/column/oma-vic-mcmurray-on-universal-children-s-day-urge-congress/article\\_3c4696b2-7848-5fa0-8400-5aafbc09f53d.html](http://host.madison.com/ct/opinion/column/oma-vic-mcmurray-on-universal-children-s-day-urge-congress/article_3c4696b2-7848-5fa0-8400-5aafbc09f53d.html)