



How to Adapt Justice for Children to a United Nations Peace Operation

Assessment – Answers

- 1) A 17-year-old girl is accused of stealing a loaf of bread for the third time this month. Should she be handcuffed?
 - b. No, it is neither appropriate nor necessary to do this.



Using handcuffs – or any other kind of physical force – on a child should only be done when absolutely necessary (e.g., to stop a child from harming him/herself or someone else). It should also only be used as a last resort and for the shortest time possible.

- 2) A 14-year-old boy is arrested and the identity papers he shows are not clear because they are covered in dirt and some information is not visible. Should the boy be detained?
 - a. No, detention should be used only as a last resort, and there is no factor here that would justify such action.



Detention shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. In nearly all cases involving children, alternatives to deprivation of liberty exist, such as supported family or community placement, including placement with host families, bail schemes or reporting requirements, or diversion programmes. In this case, unclear or missing documents are not a sufficient reason to detain a child.

- 3) A police officer wishing to respect the right of the child to participate in the justice process must:
 - b. Provide all relevant information to the child in a child-friendly manner, allow the child to express his/her point of view, and take the child's opinion into account in the next step.



The police have a duty to listen to and take the child's opinion seriously. The police should make every effort to allow children to express their thoughts and feelings freely and in their own way.

- 4) A boy and a girl are both victims of sexual violence. Should the police deal with the children in the same way?
 - b. No, a gender-sensitive approach requires that the police officer adapt the response to the particularities of each child, taking into account that boys and girls experience such crimes differently and need specific care that specialized services should be able to offer.



A gender-responsive approach considers the unique circumstances and rights of different genders when designing policing system structures, policies, and procedures.

- 5) When a child is arrested, which action occurs only because the case involves a child, and would not occur if the person accused was an adult?
 - c. The police officer will promptly inform the child's family and involve them in the case.



Children enjoy additional rights that adults do not, including the right to have one's family informed and to involve them in the case.

- 6) At the first contact with the child, the police officer's responsibility is to:
- a. Make sure to talk to the child in a friendly manner, explaining what is happening, and letting the child know that he/she can trust the officer for the next step.



One of the core responsibilities of the police is to adapt their communication to the child and inform him/her about the situation and his/her rights in a child-sensitive manner.

- 7) Which technique is not appropriate for managing cases involving a child victim of a crime?
- b. In a coordination meeting, sharing all the data associated with the case, including the names and addresses of the victim, suspect(s) and other parties involved, to facilitate effective collaboration and avoid overlap in the actions of the justice authorities.



Children have the right to keep their personal information and identity to themselves. The police have a duty to protect privacy and confidentiality in all matters that they cover, including those involving children.

- 8) A boy has stolen bread to feed his siblings. He is poor, uneducated and sympathizes with an opposition group. How should the justice actor consider the boy?
- d. As all of the above, because the justice actor has a duty to consider all dimensions of a case, taking into consideration the best interests of the child.



Lines are often blurred between the status of a child victim of a crime, a child witness of a crime and a child in conflict with the law. Notwithstanding this categorization, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in the entire process.