

# **Moving towards children's rights in Vietnam: Opportunities and Challenges**

An abstract of the dissertation by  
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Vietnam was the first Asian country and second in the world to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Despite strong will in actualizing children's rights in the society, the gaps between policies and practice, the lack of training for the professionals, who are working with children and cultural practice and beliefs were posted as obstacles in the implementation of the Convention. Social norms require children to be obedient and respectful to adults and their elders. This is an integral part of Vietnamese culture and is also reflected under the national law. So far only limited publications on research or consulting processes involving children in Vietnam exist. The purpose of the dissertation strives to shed some light on children's understanding of their rights, and search for possible solutions in improving the children's rights situation in Vietnam, with reference to the work of a local non profit organization.