



**YOUTH LAW
and
THE VIETNAMESE
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2011-2020**

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Foreword

Throughout the revolutionary history of Viet Nam, young people have been an important cohort of the country. For the purpose of taking good care, fostering and developing young people to be the future owners of the country, in the last several years, the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV) and the state have enacted a number of policies to make full use of the proactivity, creativity and huge potentials of young people.

To implement such policies of the Party, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam promulgated the Youth Law in 2005, which took effect from 1st July 2006. Based on the Youth Law, the Government and the Prime Minister have elaborated the Law into specific guiding documents and mechanism that facilitate the best development of young people.

With a view to disseminating the Youth Law and youth development policies to the general public, the Ministry of Home Affairs in coordination with other line agencies and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is publishing this booklet in Vietnamese and English to introduce the Youth Law and the Vietnamese Youth Development Strategy 2011-2020.

The Project Management Board of the VNM8V03 project under the Ministry of Home Affairs would like to thank UNFPA for its support during the process of publishing this booklet. We look forward to receiving any comments and inputs for improvement in the next edition.



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YOUTH LAW

(Law No. 53/2005/QH11)

Pursuant to the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which was amended and supplemented under Resolution No. 51/2001/QH10, dated December 25, 2001, of the National Assembly 10th term, 10th session;

This Law addresses youth-related issues.

Chapter I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1-

Young people

Young people referred to in this Law are Vietnamese citizens aged between full sixteen and thirty years.

Article 2-

Scope and coverage

1. This Law specifies the rights and obligations of young people, responsibilities of the State, family and society toward young people; and youth organizations.
2. This Law applies to state agencies, political organizations, socio-political organizations, socio-political-professional organizations, social organizations, socio-professional organizations, economic organizations, non-business units, people's uniformed services units and Vietnamese citizens (hereinafter called agencies, organizations, individuals).
3. Foreign agencies, organizations and individuals, overseas residence Vietnamese being operational in the Vietnamese territory in relation to Vietnamese youth shall also subject to the provisions of this

Law. In cases international treaties which the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a party to specify otherwise, such international treaties shall apply.

Article 3-

Rights and obligations of young people

1. Young people have the rights and obligations of Vietnamese citizens under the provisions of the Constitution and laws, and the rights and obligations provided in this Law.
2. Young people, regardless of ethnicity, gender, social class, faith, religion, educational level and occupation, shall enjoy respect and equality in terms of rights and obligations.

Article 4-

Responsibilities of the State, family and society to young people

1. The youth represents the future of the country, is a powerful social force, possesses great potentials and plays a pioneering role in the cause of building and defending the country. Training, fostering and promoting the youth are responsibilities vested to the State, family and society.
2. The State shall adopt policies to create opportunities for young people to study, work, entertain, develop physically and mentally, imbue national ethics and traditions, citizenship and the will to advance forward with a view to develop a prosperous and strong nation, and a just, democratic and civilized society.
3. Agencies, organizations, families and individuals shall actively contribute to

caring for, training, fostering and promoting the role of the youth.

Article 5-

Youth-related public administration

1. Youth-related public administration encompasses:
 - a) Promulgation and implementation of the normative documents, strategies, policies and programs on development of the youth and youth-related work;
 - b) Training, fostering and building a cadre of youth-related staff;
 - c) Inspecting, examining, addressing complaints and denunciations, and handling violations in compliance with policies and law on the youth and youth-related work;
 - d) Managing youth-related international cooperation.
2. The responsibility for youth-related public administration is provided for as follows:
 - a) The Government shall exercise overall youth-related public administration;
 - b) Ministries and ministerial-level agencies shall perform youth-related public administration functions as assigned by the Government;
 - c) People's Committees at all levels shall perform youth-related public administration in their respective localities in accordance with the delegation system of the Government.

Article 6-

The National Committee for Vietnamese Youth

The National Committee for Vietnamese Youth is a body advising the Prime Minister on youth-related work. The organization and operation of the National Committee for Vietnamese Youth are defined by the Prime Minister.

Article 7-

Youth-related international cooperation

1. Youth-related international cooperation with other countries and international organizations shall be based on the principles of equality, respect for each other's sovereignty, compatibility with the law of each country and international practices.
2. Youth-related international cooperation encompasses
 - a) Formulation and implementation of youth-related international cooperation programs and projects;
 - b) Participation in international organizations, subscription and accession to and implementation of youth-related international treaties;
 - c) Youth networking activities; exchange of information and experience on youth-related work.

Article 8-

Prohibited acts

1. Young people are strictly forbidden from committing the following acts:
 - a) Illegally transporting, buying, selling, storing and/or using narcotics;
 - b) Being engaged in prostitution, gambling and other social vices;
 - c) Buying, selling, exchanging, storing and/or utilizing cultural products containing harmful contents;
 - d) Causing public disorder.
2. Organizations and individuals are strictly forbidden from enticing, tempting or coercing young people into performing the acts specified in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Chapter II

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE YOUTH

Article 9-

Rights and obligations of the youth in learning

1. To be entitled to learning and equality in learning opportunities.
2. To work hard in order to complete the universal education program and further their study at higher levels; to regularly study to raise one's educational levels and professional qualifications; to participate in building an academic cultured environment; to be honest in study.
3. To take the pioneering role in educational and training development programs, in order to build a learning society.

Article 10-

Rights and obligations of the youth in working

1. To work in order to build one's life and career, to get rich through lawful means, to contribute to national construction.
2. To proactively get access to labor market information; to choose jobs and working places suitable to their respective capabilities and the society's needs.
3. To self-train to acquire an industrial working style, managerial capability, entrepreneurship, observance of working discipline; to make innovations and technical improvements; to upgrade one's professional qualifications to meet the requirements of scientific and technological development.
4. To play a pioneering role in implementing socio-economic development programs in areas of difficult and extremely difficult socio-economic conditions.

Article 11-

Rights and obligations of the youth in country defense

1. To defend the home country, which is a sacred duty and noble right of the youth.
2. To be trained in defense education programs; to fulfill military service duties and join the uniformed services according to the prevailing laws.
3. To participate in building the universal defense system, to uphold national secrets, to take the lead in combating all acts that infringe upon national security and social order and safety.

Article 12-

Rights and obligations of the youth in scientific and technological activities, and preservation of natural resources and environment

1. To conduct scientific and technological research, to apply technical advances in production and daily living.
2. To be honest and cooperative in scientific and technological research.
3. To participate in environmental protection and rational use of natural resources; to combat acts of destroying natural resources and environment.

Article 13-

Rights and obligations of the youth in culture, art, recreation and entertainment activities

1. To participate in healthy culture, art, entertainment and recreation activities.
2. To be constantly aware and uphold ethics, cultured manners and behaviors; to adopt a civilized lifestyle.
3. To preserve and promote the national cultural identity and protect cultural heritages: to actively participate in building

2. To be taken care of for physical development; to actively participate in physical training, sport activities and physical exercises.

3. To prevent and control HIV/AIDS; to prevent and control narcotics and other social vices.

Article 15-

Rights and obligations of the youth in marriage and family lives

1. To be provided with knowledge about marriage and family lives, to practice voluntary, progressive and monogamous marriage, husband-and-wife equality, to build happy families.

2. To preserve and build on fine traditions of the Vietnamese family; to respect grandparents, parents and the elderly; to care for, educate offspring and siblings in families.

3. To be exemplary in observing the law on marriage and family, population and family planning.

Article 16-

Rights and obligations of the youth in public and social admini-

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