UNICEF

80 Years Standing Up for Children

Educational activity proposal to celebrate World Children's Day

Activity for children aged 8–12 years.

20 November 2026

unicef
per a cada infant

About the activity

80 Years of UNICEF: A Journey Through the History of Children's Rights

World Children's Day is celebrated on 20 November, commemorating the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

This year, 2026, UNICEF is also celebrating its 80th anniversary: eight decades of work to promote the rights, protection and well-being of every child around the world.

To mark this occasion with schools, we are proposing an educational activity that invites students to discover some of the most important moments in UNICEF's history and the evolution of children's rights through a chronological journey.

What does the activity involve?

The activity consists of creating a collective timeline featuring the main milestones in UNICEF's history, from its establishment in 1946 to the present day.

Using different cards containing dates, texts and images, students will discover key events and place them in chronological order to understand how the protection of children has evolved over the years.

What do we aim to achieve?

- Learn about UNICEF's history and its work for children.
- Discover some of the major advances in the recognition and protection of children's rights.
- Understand that children's rights are the result of a long journey and that they must continue to be defended.
- Reflect on the challenges that still affect millions of children around the world today.

Practical information

- Who is it for: Schools in Andorra.
- Date: Around 20 November 2026.
- Duration: Approximately 1–1.5 hours (depending on the age group).
- Format: A collaborative and participatory activity.

Materials provided



Three materials are provided to carry out the activity:

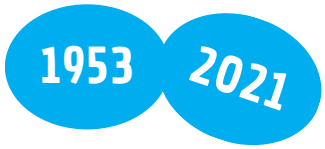
1. **Reference timeline**

A reference document for teachers containing all the milestones in chronological order, together with their corresponding dates and explanations. It serves as a guide to help teachers lead the activity and check the final result.



2. **Event cards**

Cards featuring different moments in UNICEF's history. Students will read, interpret and arrange these cards in chronological order.



3. **Year circles**

Circular pieces displaying the years corresponding to the different milestones. Students will place them next to each event as they build the timeline.

How does the activity work?

1. **Prepare the space.** Find a spacious area where the timeline can be created. It can be set up on the classroom board, placing the cards in a horizontal sequence, or along the classroom walls to create a chronological journey.

2. **Distribute the cards.** Hand out the event cards and year circles to the students or the different working groups.

3. **Read, discover and arrange.** Students read the cards, discover what happened and try to identify when each event took place. To do so, they will need to match the milestones with the corresponding years and arrange them in chronological order.

4. **Build the timeline!** Place the cards and years in the correct order until the 80-year journey through UNICEF's history is complete. Teachers can use the reference timeline to guide the activity and check the final result.

Extra clues for students

If you think it would be helpful, you can give students the *"A few clues to help you along!"* worksheet, which contains clues to help them identify some of the years and complete the timeline.

TIMELINE

1946	• Establishment of UNICEF • Logo (globe)
1947	First private donation
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
1949	First UNICEF Greeting Card
1953	Logo (child drinking)
1959	Declaration of the Rights of the Child
1965	Nobel Peace Prize
1975	Logo (UNICEF lettering)
1984	Goodwill Ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi
1989	Convention on the Rights of the Child
1990	First World Summit for Children
1994	School-in-a-Box
2004	Goodwill Ambassador Jackie Chan
2007	RUTF
2010	Goodwill Ambassador Leo Messi
2013	Goodwill Ambassador Katy Perry
2016	Logo (blue box)

TIMELINE

2018	Goodwill Ambassador Millie Bobby Brown
2021	COVAX - vaccination
2022	War in Ukraine
2026	• Goodwill Ambassador Lamine Yamal • 80 years of UNICEF

EP! NECESSITES UN COP DE MÀ?

Pots fer servir aquestes pistes per descobrir els anys que falten i completar el fris cronològic. Llegeix-les amb atenció, relaciona les idees i... posa a prova el teu enginy!

- The years in which the Goodwill Ambassadors were appointed are: 1984, 2004, 2010, 2013, 2018 and 2026.
- Leo Messi became a Goodwill Ambassador between Jackie Chan and Katy Perry.
- UNICEF received its first private donation shortly after it was established.
- There are two events from each of the following years: 1946 and 2026.
- 19 years after UNICEF was established, the organisation was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. 29 years later, School-in-a-Box was created.
- Seven decades after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the actress who stars in Stranger Things became a Goodwill Ambassador.
- UNICEF's logos were updated in 1953, 1975 and 2016.



The Creation of UNICEF

Following the Second World War, the International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF) was established to help children affected by the conflict.

Its mission was to protect the health of all children and provide assistance without discrimination.

Later, the United Nations officially established the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UNICEF receives its first private donation!

Logo



Logo

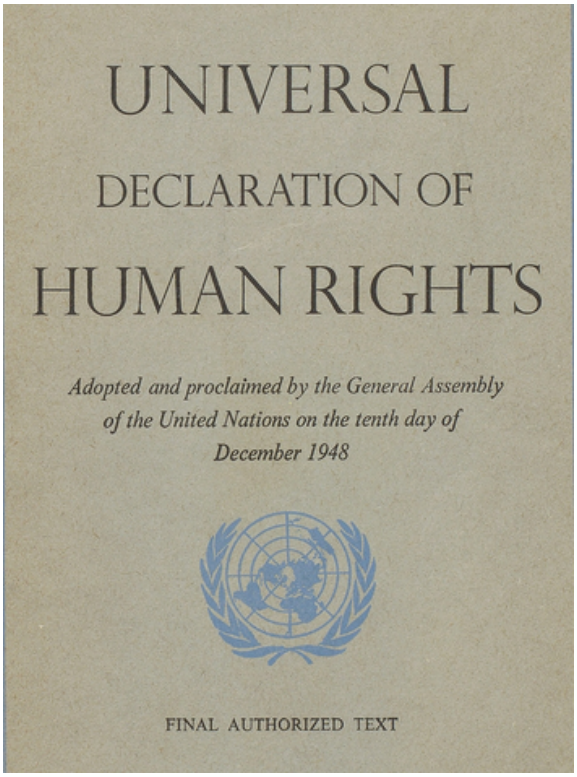


Logo



Logo





Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948.

It is a document that sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that all people have simply because they are human, regardless of their origin, sex, religion or any other status.

It recognises rights such as life, freedom, equality, education and protection against discrimination.

Els 10 principis de la Declaració de 1959

1. Dret a la igualtat
2. Protecció especial i desenvolupament
3. Dret a un nom i nacionalitat
4. Seguretat social, salut i alimentació
5. Infants amb discapacitat
6. Amor, afecte i família
7. Educació gratuïta i joc
8. Prioritat en la protecció
9. Protecció contra l'abandó, la crueltat i l'explotació
10. Protecció contra la discriminació i educació en la pau

Declaration of the Rights of the Child

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations on 20 November 1959.

It sets out ten principles recognising that all children need special protection and care in order to grow up healthy, free, with dignity and in safety.

It upholds rights such as having a name and a nationality, receiving an education, playing and being protected from all forms of neglect and exploitation.



Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations on 20 November 1989.

It is an international treaty that recognises children as rights-holders and establishes that the states that ratify it have a legal obligation to respect and uphold those rights.

It sets out the rights of all children under the age of 18, including the right to health, education, protection, play and to be heard. It is the first international treaty to comprehensively recognise children's rights.

UNICEF's First Greeting Card

Illustrated with a drawing by a seven-year-old girl from former Czechoslovakia, its sale becomes an important fundraising initiative for UNICEF.



Nobel Peace Prize

"The well-being of today's children is inseparably linked with the peace of tomorrow's world." – Henry Labouisse



UNICEF is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to promote solidarity among nations.

This recognition highlights its work for children and its role in building a more peaceful world.

UNICEF Executive Director Henry Labouisse receives the award in Norway.



Leo Messi

Argentine footballer Leo Messi is appointed a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

Shortly after his appointment, he travels to Haiti to raise awareness of the situation of children affected by the earthquake.

In addition to working with UNICEF, he establishes his own foundation, which supports healthcare projects to improve children's lives.



Jackie Chan

LActor, director and martial arts expert Jackie Chan is appointed a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador during a visit to Cambodia.

For many years, he has devoted part of his career to supporting humanitarian initiatives and working with charitable organisations around the world.



Tetsuko Kuroyanagi

A renowned Japanese actress, writer and television presenter is appointed a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

Over the years, she visits nearly 40 countries and territories to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the most vulnerable children.

She is the longest-serving UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

Millie Bobby Brown



The British actress, known for her role in the series Stranger Things, is appointed UNICEF's youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador on World Children's Day 2018.

"Becoming a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador is a dream come true. I'm really looking forward to meeting children and young people, listening to their stories and giving a voice to their needs."

Katy Perry



The American singer is appointed a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in recognition of her commitment to children.

She has visited countries such as Vietnam and Madagascar to raise awareness of the needs of the most vulnerable children and has used her voice to advocate for their rights. In 2016, she receives UNICEF's Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award.

Lamine Yamal

"I am very proud to become a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. When I was a child, all I had was a family, a football, a park and a dream. Playing football gave me hope for the future. (...) I know how important it is for children to have a safe place to play, enjoy being children, discover the world, imagine and grow. (...) When they are deprived of the opportunity to play, they also lose opportunities to develop skills, make friends and imagine a better future."

RUTF: Treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition

UNICEF works with the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop Plumpy'Nut, a peanut-based paste designed to treat children with severe acute malnutrition. A treatment lasting around seven weeks is often enough to help them recover and regain a stable state of health.

First World Summit for Children in New York

In 1990, 40,000 children still died every day before reaching the age of six. To find joint solutions, UNICEF brings together 150 heads of state and government in New York for the first World Summit for Children. Never before had so many representatives from such a diverse range of countries gathered to address a single issue.

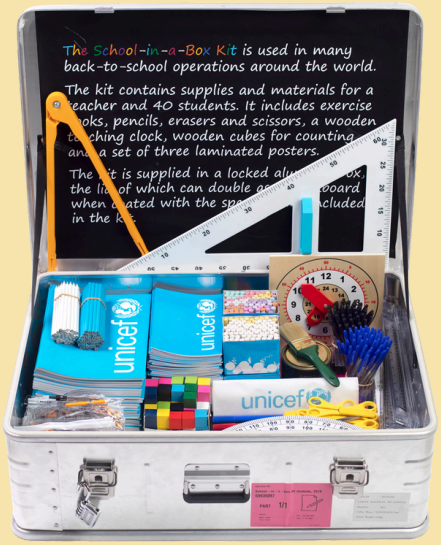


UNICEF and UNESCO create the School-in-a-Box to ensure that children can continue learning during humanitarian crises.

The box contains school supplies, toys, a radio and a tin of paint that can turn any flat surface into a blackboard.

This allows teachers to set up a makeshift classroom almost anywhere and teach around 40 students for at least three months.

School in a box



War in Ukraine

The escalation of the war in Ukraine puts millions of children at risk. Many are forced to flee their homes, separated from their families and face disruptions to their education, healthcare and protection. The crisis triggers the largest wave of migration in Europe since the Second World War and also affects many host countries, including Switzerland.

UNICEF provides emergency assistance in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, ensuring access to safe drinking water, healthcare services and psychosocial support, child protection, financial assistance, and safe spaces and learning environments for children and families.



On 8 July 2024, rescue teams, hospital staff and volunteers clear the rubble and search for victims following the attack on Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital in Kyiv. UNICEF provides water and hygiene supplies.

Equitable Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines



UNICEF plays a key role in the global procurement and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative. In February 2021, the first doses arrive in Ghana and, just 42 days later, more than 100 countries and territories have received them.

That year, COVAX distributes 958 million doses to 144 countries, in one of the largest and most complex vaccination and distribution campaigns in history.



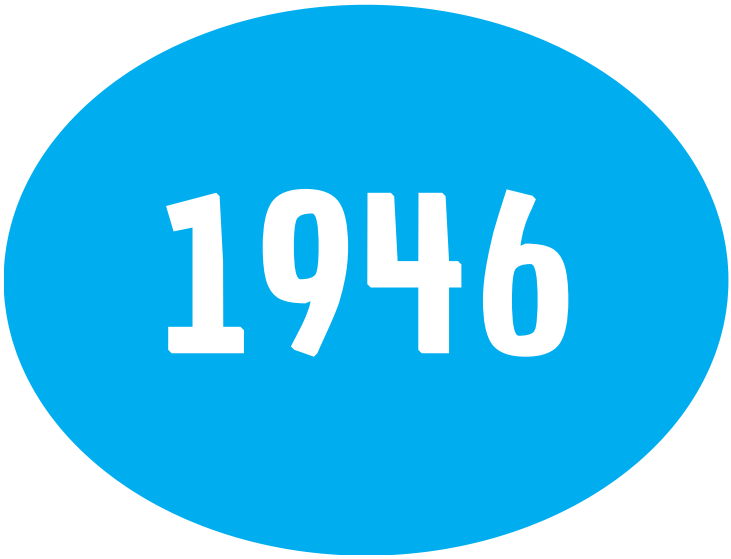
80 Years Standing Up for Children

1946 — 2026

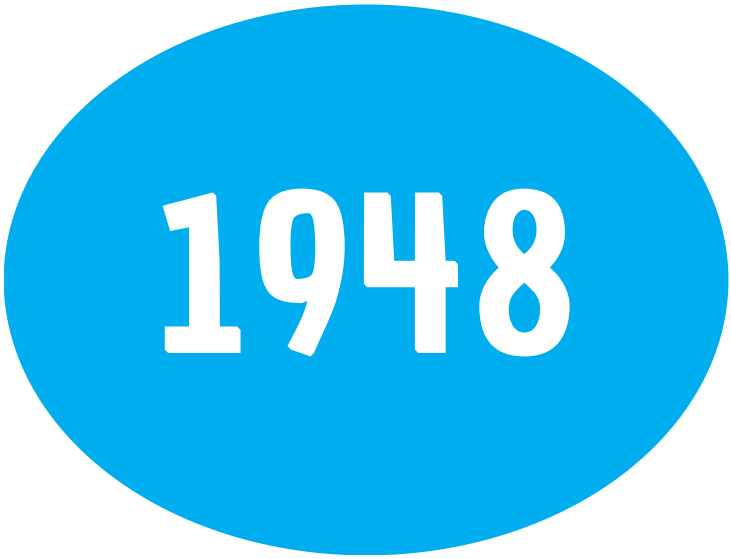
For 80 years, UNICEF has worked to protect the rights of every child, promote their well-being and ensure they have opportunities to grow, learn and thrive.

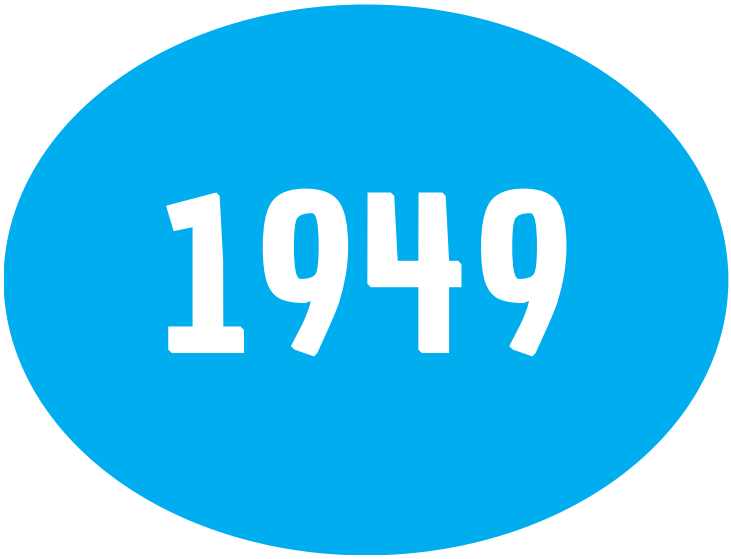
From the first efforts to help children in the aftermath of the Second World War to the challenges we face today, UNICEF continues to work towards a world where every child can enjoy their rights and have a better future.

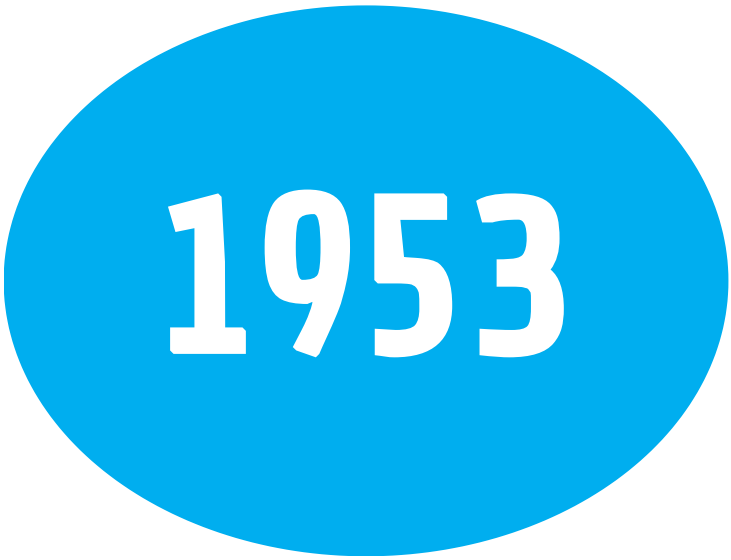
Because every child, wherever they are, deserves to grow up with rights, opportunities and hope.

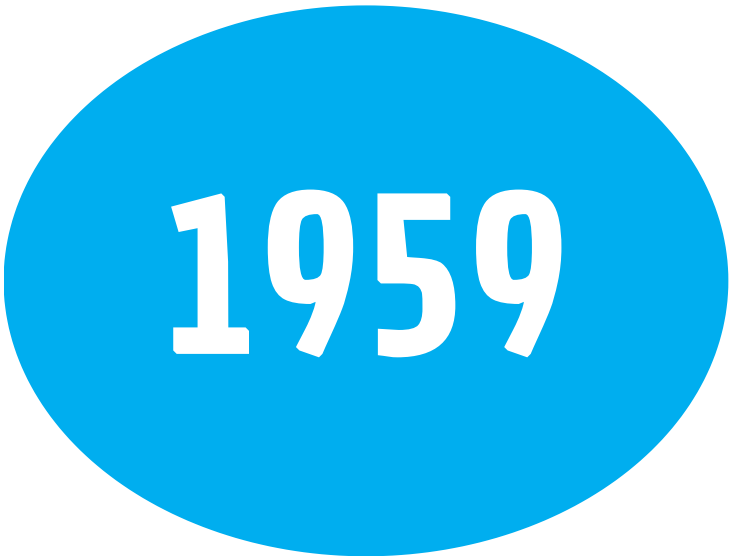

1946

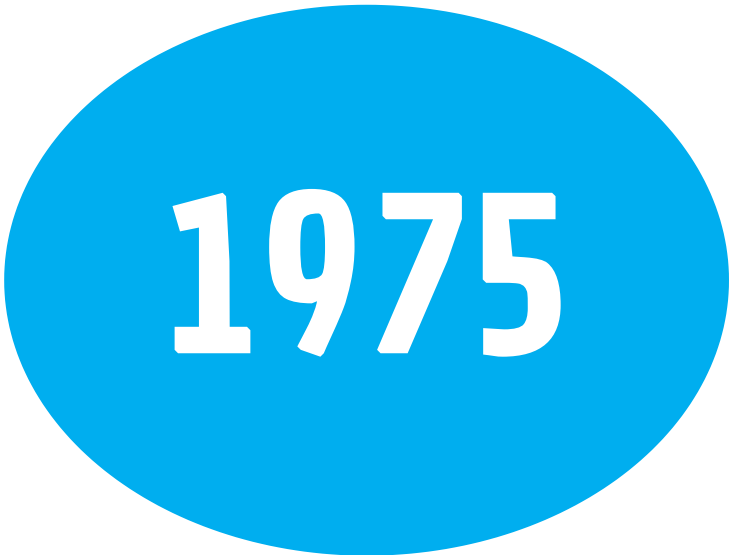

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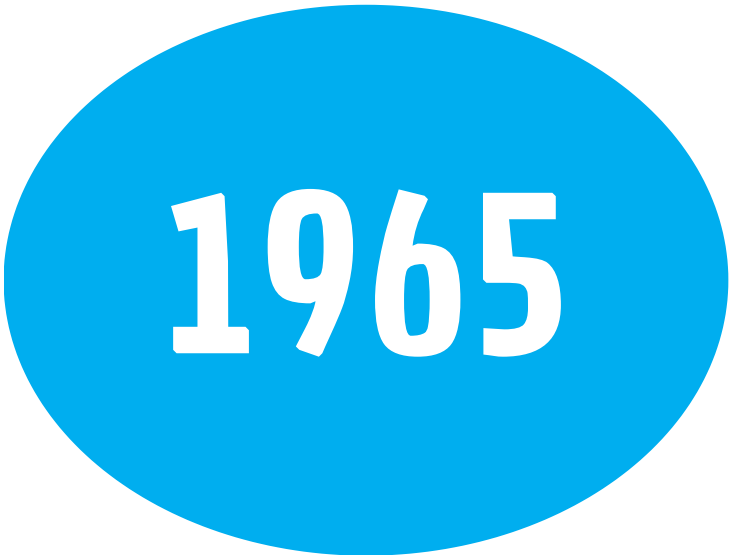

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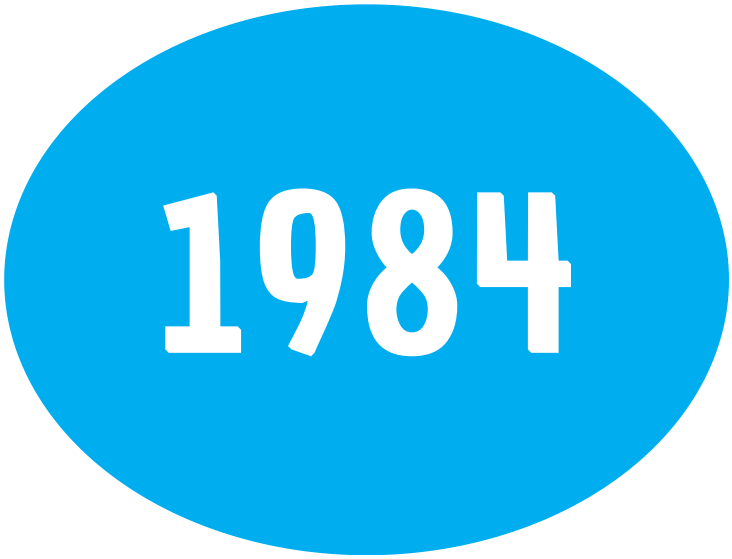

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1953

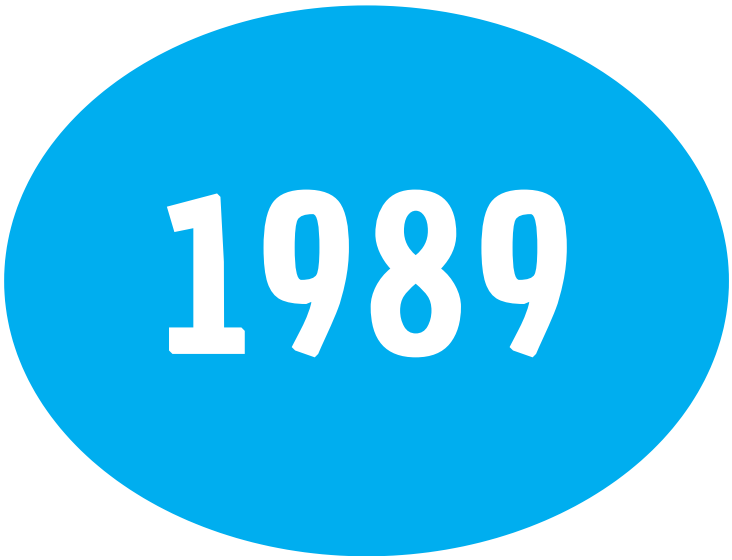

1959


1975


1965


1984


1990


1989


1994

2007

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2016


2026


2018


2022


2021