

Human Rights and Social Justice



Human rights

Human rights are universal moral rights that apply to all people at all times in all situations, regardless of gender, age, race, religious beliefs or age.

Social Justice

Social Justice is promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity. Where everyone has access to provisions, opportunities and rights

In 1948 the United Nations issued the Declaration of Human Rights. This includes 30 articles or things that all humans should expect to be able to have or do. The Declaration says: "All humans are born free and equal in dignity and in rights"

Why campaign for human rights and social justice?

Many religious believers consider it important to campaign for issues of social justice as a response to the teachings of sacred texts, e.g. the Bible tells Christians to 'love thy neighbour'. It is these sacred texts that inspire believers today to make a stand against injustice around the world.



- Groups such as **Amnesty International** monitor situations where human rights are not being upheld
 - Many people in the world today still do not have their basic human rights
 - Many agencies support peoples' entitlement to human rights. This is called **Social Justice** - a fair and just relation between the individual and the society
 - Breaking down barriers, e.g. due to race or religion, advances social justice
 - It involves governments and agencies working together to try to help developing countries, e.g. to reduce the divide between the rich and poor
- Ban Ki-Moon** said, "Circumstances such as where a person is born, their gender or ethnicity should never determine their income, opportunities for quality education, healthcare, shelter, access to water or freedom to live without threatened or actual violence."

Amnesty International

- Set up in 1960 by Peter Benenson
- It works **worldwide** to protect and campaign for people whose basic human rights have been denied
- Uses **non-violent methods** to raise awareness and protest against human rights abuses
- Forms **protest** marches
- Writes **letters** to governments, campaigning for justice
- Raises **awareness**, through the media, of people whose rights have been abused
- Runs **school programmes** and events to educate about human rights abuses
- Were given a **Nobel Peace Prize in 1977** for the impact of their work on the world



SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Every person should be treated with **dignity** and **respect**
- All humans are **worthy** of equal consideration
- Humanists support **freedom of belief and expression**
- Tolerance** for all beliefs and ways of life as long as they do not harm others
- Humanists oppose racism, sexism, torture, unfair imprisonment, persecution because of beliefs and inequalities of wealth and education.
- It is up to each individual to create a **just** society
- Every human life deserves dignity. This is the only life we will have
- Humanists campaign for human rights and **social justice**
- Humanists helped to found the **United Nations** and other organisations concerned with human rights
- The International Humanist and Ethical Union have been very active in supporting the **empowerment** of oppressed people

Humanist Attitudes



Malala Yousafzai

Malala campaigned for human rights when she wanted to create a more socially just society. Malala campaigned about the lack of education for girls in Swat valley in Pakistan, where she lived.

"I raise up my voice - not so I can shout but so those without a voice can be heard... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back."

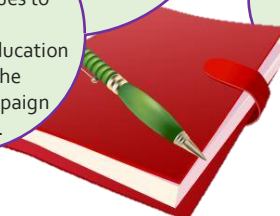
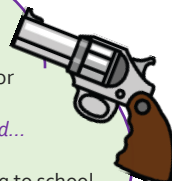
The Taliban were a powerful force where Malala lived and had banned girls from going to school. For Malala, girls not being allowed an education went against Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: **Everyone has the right to education.**

Malala knew that campaigning would put her life at risk, as the Taliban had issued death threats against her. When she was 11 she began writing a blog, promoting education for girls. This led to her giving interviews to the media.

On the afternoon of 9th October 2012, she was boarding her school bus when a gunman asked for her by name. He shot at Malala three times and one of the bullets hit her in the head.

Miraculously, Malala survived, despite severe injuries, and continues to campaign for social justice.

For Malala, her **personal conviction** or belief in the importance of education for girls drove her to actions. For many people, their belief in the importance of dignity for every human being drives them to campaign against human rights abuses in order to **create social justice.**



The Universal Declaration of HUMAN RIGHTS

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

WE ARE ALL BORN FREE AND EQUAL
EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THESE RIGHTS
NO MATTER YOUR RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONALITY

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND SAFETY

No one has the right to hold you in slavery.

You have the right to own property.

No one has the right to torture you.

Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.

You have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Freedom of Expression: You have the right to free thought and to voice your opinions to others.

We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.

Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.

You have the right to seek legal help if your rights are violated.

Everyone has the right to help choose and to take part in governing your country, directly or through chosen representatives.

No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.

You have the right to a fair and public trial.

Everyone is innocent until **PROVEN** guilty.

You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home or correspondence.

Workers' rights: Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage and to join a trade union.

You can travel wherever you want.

You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are being persecuted in your own country.

Everyone has the right to a nationality.

Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.

Everyone has the right to education.

Your intellectual property as an artist or scientist should be protected.

All adults have the right to marriage and to raise a family.

We are all entitled to social order so we can enjoy these rights.

You have the responsibility to respect the rights of others

NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY ANY OF YOUR RIGHTS

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