



Religious Education

Key Knowledge

Year 11

Human Rights



Human rights Universal moral rights for all people no matter who they are. 1948 **United Nations Declaration of Human Rights** contains a list of all human rights starting with 'all are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Most countries agreed to this list and are held to account when they break them. **Amnesty International** is a charity that monitors injustice around the world through protests, writing to governments, using the media and education. Sometimes a religious belief can conflict with a human right such as same-sex marriages.

Social justice Governments and agencies often work together to help developing countries by closing the gap between the rich and poor divide and looking after the environment by tackling pollution. Dignity of human life is at the centre of social justice. **Christians** argue the UN Declaration of Human Rights reflect their beliefs. We were made in the image of G-d so life is to be treated with respect. This might mean **Catholics** would be against euthanasia or the death penalty. The **sanctity of life** means everyone should be treated with **agape love** (unconditional). It is the example of Jesus so many charities reflect this in their work, like the **Salvation Army** who help the homeless. **Liberation theology** argues that Jesus was an example who someone who liberated people from unjust economic, political and social conditions. Some Christians stand up against their governments through peaceful protest and have been persecuted and even killed. The priest **Oscar Romero** is one example in El Salvador. He spoke out against corruption of rich people after his friend was murdered. The government killed him during his church service.

Censorship Article 19 of the **UN Declaration of Human Rights** says, 'everyone has a right to freedom of opinion and expression.' The problems are some say: No public views should be allowed that offend. Religious views should stay in private. We should be allowed to say anything. Should people be allowed to be anti-Semitic, homophobic, Islamophobic on Twitter? How far should there be freedom of religious expression? Christians and Hindus believe that anything offensive towards God should be censored.

Religious extremism There is a fine line between freedom of speech and the actions that accompany them when extreme. Some extreme Christians who oppose abortion have become violent in their protests. For some, their faith is so important they interpret it in a very narrow way which can lead to extreme beliefs and actions. They believe they are doing the work of God. Examples might be the Westboro Baptist Church in America who hate homosexuals, the KKK who promote white superiority and Daesh, the Islamist terror group who hate the West.

Racism In Britain racism is against the law. There are campaigns to stop it happening, especially at football matches. 'Show Racism the Red Card' is an anti-racism charity that combats racism using sports celebrities to preach an anti-racist message to young people working in schools to educate. **Christians** promote equality of all races and use the **Parable of the Good Samaritan** to show Jesus' teaching on the matter. If the Samaritan would help the Jew from a race he didn't culturally get along with, how much more should we do the same? **The Church of England** promotes racial equality through a committee which encourages ethnic minorities to become priests and has **inter-faith dialogue** to promote **community cohesion**. **Martin Luther King Jr** is a case study of a **Baptist Minister** campaigning against racial segregation in 1950s America.

Key Vocabulary

Censorship – Suppressing and limiting access to materials considered obscene, offensive or a threat to security. Restricting speech.

Discrimination – Acts of treating groups of people, or individuals differently, based on prejudice.

Extremism – Believing in and supporting ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable.

Human rights – Basic entitlements of all humans, given simply because they are human. E.g. All should receive an education.

Personal conviction – Something a person strongly feels or believes in.

Prejudice – Pre-judging; judging people to be inferior or superior without reason.

Relative poverty – A standard of poverty measured in relation to the standards of a society in which they live. E.g below average UK wage.

Absolute poverty – An acute state of deprivation, whereby a person cannot access the most basic of their human needs.

Social justice – Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and ensuring diversity. Everyone has equal access to provisions and rights.

Evangelise – To try and convert someone to a different religion (often used as a term in Christianity)

Key context

Wealth Christians believe you should be judged by actions and not wealth and status. Money is not evil but the love of it is. Jobs are not banned for creating wealth, but it shouldn't exploit the poor. Whilst gambling is not specified as a sin in the Bible, many Christians frown upon it as it is not being a good steward of your money. **Quakers** are completely opposed to gambling as it promotes greed. Jesus taught money doesn't make you happy. Some Christians are **aesthetics** and vow to give up wealth and live in poverty. **The Parable of the Sheep and Goats** teaches that G-d will not judge you on the amount of wealth you have but whether you have helped the poor. Christians are encouraged to give a **tithe** (10%) of their income to the Church or charity.