

Rights and Inequalities



What this topic covers

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” - UN Declaration on Human Rights All people everywhere deserve to be treated fairly and with equity. Unfortunately, for many this is not the case. Access to education, healthcare and having religious freedoms are just some of the fundamental rights that many groups continue to strive for in the face of oppression.

By the end of this topic you will have prepared for dialogue with your peers by:



Global Communication

Learning about some of the universal human rights that impact marginalised groups through personal stories.



Reflection

Reflecting on inequalities and the dynamics of power and oppression in various communities, including your own.



Active Listening

Building empathy by actively listening to the varied experiences of others and the impact of inequalities on people's lives.



Asking Questions

Carefully crafting questions which will help others to tell their stories and share their experiences.

This learning module on average takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete

[Start learning](#)



Back

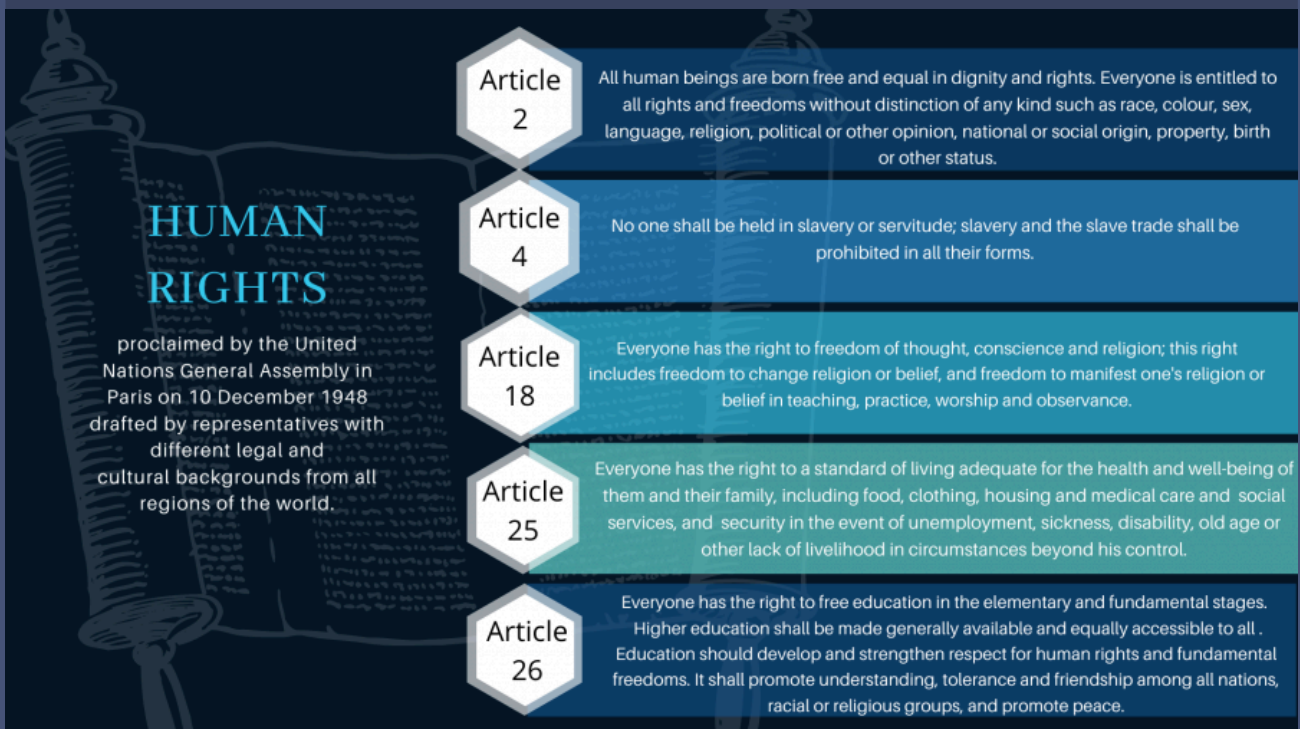
Learning about rights and inequalities



Human Rights



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHRs) was produced in response to the horrific rights violations witnessed in World War Two. It continues to be the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations in promoting and protecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>


HUMAN RIGHTS

proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948
drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world.

Article 2	All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
Article 4	No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.
Article 18	Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change religion or belief, and freedom to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.
Article 25	Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of them and their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and social services, and security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
Article 26	Everyone has the right to free education in the elementary and fundamental stages. Higher education shall be made generally available and equally accessible to all. Education should develop and strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and promote peace.



Show text version

Continue



Back

Learning about rights and inequalities



Human Rights



Which human right is being violated?

Read the story and choose the human right violation. As you are reading this, refrain from generalising one person's experiences as representative of all people.

"When I was 14 my father got very sick. To help, I found a job as a domestic worker. I did not get a contract though, so I had to start work at 5am until 11pm. I was working for 18 hours a day with very little pay." - Student, Tanzania

Article 2: Right to Equality

Article 4: Freedom From Slavery

Article 18: Right to Freedom of Belief

Article 25: Right to Health and Well-being

Article 26: Right to Quality Education



Power and Oppression



When talking about power in relation to human rights, it is often associated with the people, groups, or institutions who are not suffering from human rights violations and can freely make decisions about how they and others experience the world. Oppression is the result of those with power infringing on or denying others their rights by creating, contributing to, or upholding systems that violate human rights.

As you review these images, think about these key questions:

- Who has the power?
- Who is experiencing oppression?
- Who is experiencing a violation of their human rights?
- What is the impact on the wider community?

This is a sign at the beach in Durban, South Africa in 1989. These labels – “Whites Only”, “Europeans only” or “Coloureds only” – were on everything, by order of the government.

This era is referred to as Apartheid, meaning 'apartness', a system of discrimination and racial segregation laws that were enforced by the government in South Africa from 1948 to 1991.



Racism

(Britannica/Photo: Guinnog (cc-by-sa-3.0) [Creative Commons](#) [Legal Code](#))

Show text version

Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock in Australia, is sacred for the Aboriginal people who are the original inhabitants of this land. Despite requests from the Aborigines to keep off this sacred rock for many years and winning a national ban on tourists to the area, people still flocked to the site to climb right to the last moments before the ban went into effect.

Indigenous communities around the world are working to have land ownership returned to them. Most cases are silenced, sites of active protest, or caught up in long and costly legal battles.



Land Rights

(Photo: Wikimedia)

Show text version



In Mexico, every year on March 8, thousands of women march on International Women's Day to protest against femicide, gender violence, and the lack of gender equality in the country. According to El País (2023), more than 3,000 women are murdered in Mexico each year. During the march women voice their opinions through posters.

Gender Violence

(Photo: Angie Santana, 2023)

Data source: <https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-11-25/more-than-3000-women-are-murdered-in-mexico-each-year-how-violence-affects-the-youngest-victims.html>

Femicide is a word that defines the murder of women and includes gender-based violence, domestic violence, and sexual violence.

Show text version

 Back

Learning about rights and inequalities



Power and Oppression



Power, Oppression, Rights and Communities

Thinking about one of the images you chose, reflect on how the people involved and the communities they live in are impacted by power and oppression.

- Who has the power?
- Who is experiencing oppression?
- Who is experiencing a violation of their human rights?
- What is the impact on the wider community?

Write your reflection below.

Enter your thoughts here...

Continue

 Back

Learning about rights and inequalities



Action for Human Rights



Watch this video from the World's Largest Lesson and listen to the stories of your global peers taking scaled action toward human rights and equality in their own communities.

Can children really make a difference? Featuring Dharma Abu Hijleh

Source: The World's Largest Lesson: Can children really make a difference? Featuring Dharma Abu Hijleh - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hR8hgBfZJcs>



Show transcript

Continue

 Back

Learning about rights and inequalities



Action for Human Rights



What actions can you take to support human rights and equality?

Thinking about the impact of rights and inequality in your own community, talk to a teacher, friend, or family member about inequality in your community. Come back and type the reflections about what you heard and the actions you can take to make a stand for rights and equality.

Enter your thoughts here...

Continue



HOW TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES?



Governments can...

- eliminate laws, policies and practices that do not protect human rights and support equality.
- work in collaboration with the private sector to create decent jobs especially for young people, migrants and refugees.



Society can organise to...

- make the government accountable to eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and practices and to create fairer laws that protect human rights and equality.
- support civil society organizations campaigns that promote rights and foster equality.



As a young person you can...

- create and/or participate in awareness campaigns or projects in your school or in a local organisation that encourage the protection of human rights and become a volunteer.
- get informed about the actions the government is taking to protect your human rights and to promote equality



Source: United Nations (2020) "Reduce Inequalities: Why it matters" Available at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/10_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf



 Back

Which questions are good questions for a dialogue on this topic?

Think about the information you have just read. Asking good questions can help you to dig deeper during dialogue about rights and inequalities, and how everyone can contribute to create change. Check the box next to the questions that you think are strong and would use in a dialogue.

How does the government in your country address inequalities in your community?

☐

What's wrong with people who don't understand people's rights?

☒

In which school or community activities do you think you could participate to learn more about your rights and the inequalities in your country?

☐

Where have you noticed inequalities in your community?

☐

Why are young people so lazy when addressing inequalities?

☐

Continue

Well done!



You completed

Learning about rights and inequalities

Congratulations on completing this topic and exploring some of the important issues surrounding human rights and inequalities! You have an introductory understanding of human rights and how they are not universally honoured. You are able to listen openly to different experiences and perspectives of others and ask good questions in a dialogue when investigating how global issues amplify inequality.

You are now ready to enter the dialogue space to practise the core skills and talk about this important topic. When you have earned 30 XP in the space, you can then book into a live video conference to dialogue with your peers!

Enjoying the Ultimate Dialogue Adventure? Invite your friends to join you!

[Invite via email](#) - [Invite via WhatsApp](#)



Continue



Learning: Rights and Inequalities

You have earned the learning badge about Rights and Inequalities!