



# SESSION PLAN

## ACTIVITY 3: THE IMPACT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

*An activity designed for students aged 11-14.*

### INTRODUCTION

This session asks students to think about the ways in which their lives are affected by human rights. The goal is to show students that everyone has rights, and that human rights touch every aspect of their lives.

A selection of rights protected by the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights is set out in the boxes on page 2. The impact cards on page 3 give examples of what people can or cannot do as a result of their rights being protected, or of laws that the UK has passed to give effect to those rights. Page 4 provides you with the answers.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recognise the range of rights that we have in the UK and what they are.
- Explore the ways in which human rights laws impact our lives.

### RESOURCES

- Copies of sheet 2 – rights sheet
- Copies of sheet 3 – impact cards

### STARTER

Explain that the Human Rights Act sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that individuals in the UK enjoy. These rights are derived from the rights protected in the European Convention on Human Rights.



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### MAIN

Ask students to work in pairs or threes. Their task is to match the impact to the relevant right. They can either (a) cut up the impact cards and then paste the relevant impact into the corresponding human rights box, or (b) write the text of the impact card in the box.

### DISCUSSION

Once the students have completed the task, go through the answers and ask the students if they can think of any other examples of ways in which human rights have an impact on their lives.

Interesting talking points may be a discussion of mobile phones and the draft Communications Data Bill which could give the State power to access records of an individual's emails, texts or internet browsing history; the rights of same sex couples to get married and to adopt children, or whether doctors and teachers should be allowed to wear the full face veil.

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## ANSWER SHEET

<p><b>People should not be discriminated against.</b></p> <p><i>A soldier cannot be sacked from the army for being gay.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the right to life.</b></p> <p><i>Capital punishment (the death penalty) has been banned in the UK.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the right to be free from torture.</b></p> <p><i>Prisoners cannot be beaten when being interrogated.</i></p>
<p><b>We're all equal before the law.</b></p> <p><i>Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the right to have the free assistance of an interpreter if they cannot understand or speak English.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the right to privacy.</b></p> <p><i>An injunction can be granted to prevent newspapers reporting that a celebrity has had a child as the result of an affair.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the right to a fair trial, and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.</b></p> <p><i>Criminal suspects are often released on bail until their trial takes place.</i></p>
<p><b>Everyone has the right to freedom of religion, and to have no religion if desired.</b></p> <p><i>Members of a jury can choose which religious text to swear the oath upon, or can choose to make an affirmation if they hold no religious beliefs.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the right to freedom of speech and expression.</b></p> <p><i>Investigative journalists do not have to reveal their sources, even if they publish articles which are very critical of the Government.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the right to be free from slavery.</b></p> <p><i>Children who have been trafficked and forced to work in a drugs farm are treated as victims not as criminals.</i></p>
<p><b>Everyone has the right to education and parents can choose the type for their children.</b></p> <p><i>Every child in the UK is able to go to school free of charge.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the freedom of assembly and association.</b></p> <p><i>Almost a quarter of the total workforce in the UK are members of a trade union.</i></p>	<p><b>Everyone has the right to democracy.</b></p> <p><i>Every 5 years people over the age of 18 can vote for who they want to be their local Member of Parliament.</i></p>