



LIST OF ADDITIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS SONGS

This is a list of additional songs linked to human rights issues for teachers who want to expand the topics covered in the lessons.

Joan Baez and Mimi Farina

Bread and roses (1976)

Women's liberation song, inspired by the women textile workers' strike in Massachusetts in 1912.

Band Aid

Do they know it's Christmas? (1984)

Song to raise money for the 1983-1985 famine in Ethiopia.

Ludwig van Beethoven

O Welche Lust (1775)

The prisoner's chorus from his opera about a prisoner of conscience jailed for his ideas.

Billy Bragg

Between the wars (1984)

Song about class division.

Which side are you on? (1984)

A version of a traditional union song.

Joe Hill (1990)

Song about a murdered union organiser.

Big Bill Broonzy

Black, brown and white blues (1939)

Song about racial discrimination in the jobs market.

Garth Brooks

We shall be free... (1992)

*'When the last child cries for a crust of bread,
When the last man dies for just words that he said
When there's shelter over the poorest head
When the last thing we notice is the colour of skin.'*

Robert Burns

A man's a man for a' that (1795)

Song for equality.

Tracy Chapman

Behind the wall (1988)

Song about domestic violence and police indifference

Why? (1988)

'Why do babies die when there's enough food to feed the world?'

The Clash

Know your rights (1982)

*'Know your rights all 3 of them...
Number three: You have the right to free
Speech as long as you're not
Dumb enough to actually try it.
Know your rights
These are your rights'*

Sam Cooke

A change is gonna come (1964)

On discrimination and racism in 1960s USA.

Dire Straits

Brothers in arms (1985)

Anti-war song.

Bob Dylan

Only a pawn in their game (1963)

Song about the racist murder of Medgar Evers, civil rights campaigner in Mississippi.

Hurricane (1966)

Song about Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter, a boxer who spent 19 years in jail for a murder Dylan felt he did not commit.

Masters of war (1966)

Song against war and the power of the military-industrial complex.

Blowin' in the wind (1963)

A song about the many inequalities and injustices in society and the need for change.

Peter Gabriel and Youssou N'Dour

Biko (1977)

Song about anti-Apartheid campaigner Steve Biko, killed in South African police custody.

Marvin Gaye

What's going on (1971)

Song about picket lines, protest and police brutality.



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Woodie Guthrie

Deportee (1948)

Song about a plane crash in Los Gatos which killed Mexican migrant fruit pickers being deported.

Vigilante Man (1939)

Song about armed men used by the police to maintain law and order. Many trade unionists and migrant workers were beaten up by them.

This Land is Your Land (1940)

Song about the long dole queues, poverty and hunger during the Great Depression in the USA in the 1930s.

Yusuf Islam

Peace train (1971)

A call for people to take the chance to live in peace and harmony.

My people (A song for Egypt) (2011)

Composed and recorded after Yusuf Islam watched Egyptians in Tahrir Square peacefully demanding change and calling for human rights in the country.

Janet Jackson

State of the world (1989)

Song about homelessness and teenage pregnancy.

Bon Jovi

Living on a prayer (1986)

Song about poverty and homelessness.

K'naan

Wavin' flag (2009)

Song for freedom and justice adopted as the theme song for 2010 World Cup.

John Lennon

Imagine (1975)

Lennon imagines a world where people live together in harmony and respect.

Ewan MacColl

Go down ye murderers (1950)

The Ballad of Tim Evans on the death penalty and the hanging of an innocent man.

The Manchester Rambler (1953)

Song about the right to walk in the countryside and the mass trespass of Kinder Scout in the Peak District in 1932.

Bob Marley

Get up stand up (1973)

Song about the need to take action for human rights, against oppression, against religious bigotry and for acceptance of his Rastafarian faith.

Redemption song (1979)

Song about slavery, the imprisonment of the mind, his struggle for freedom, redemption.

One love (1965)

An appeal for peace and unity, for everyone to stop fighting, the nature of oppression.

Paul McCartney

How many people? (1971)

Song about the Brazilian rain forest and the murder of Chico Mendez.

Yousou N'dour and Neneh Cherry

Seven seconds (1994)

(English, French and Wolof)

Song about the first seconds of a child's life: the world is seen without prejudice, not knowing about problems and violence in the world.

Holly Near

It could have been me (1974)

Song about the 1970 Kent State University killings in Ohio, USA.

The Pogues

Streets of sorrow (1988)

Song about the Birmingham 6 and Guildford 4: ten innocent people unfairly imprisoned for alleged involvement in IRA bomb outrages.

The Police

Message in a bottle (1979)

Metaphor for loneliness and the need for human solidarity.

Queen

Is this the world we created? (1982)

Song about hunger and war written after the Live Aid concert.

Rage Against the Machine

Children of the sun (1997)

Song about the history of Mexico, racism and injustice.



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REM

The flowers of Guatemala (1986)

Over 100,000 indigenous people were killed in the repression in Guatemala in the past half century.

Paul Robeson

No more auction block for me (1947)

Anti-slavery song.

Ballad for Americans (1939)

The values and spirit of the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, the freeing of the slaves and a picture of Americans of every background.

Pete Seeger

If I had a hammer (1949)

Song about unity, justice and peace.

Oh I had a golden thread (1958)

Song for idealism and peace, and making the world a better place for our children and grandchildren.

Dimitri Shostakovitch

13th Symphony (1943)

Features Babar Yar, a poem by Yevgeny Yevtushenko about a ravine near Kiev where the Nazis murdered over 100,000 Jews in 1941.

Labi Siffre

Something inside so strong (1987)

Response to a film of white South African police shooting black children, a song of defiance in the face of oppression and bigotry.

Specials

Ghost town (1981)

On urban decay and unemployment in Thatcher's Britain.

Special AKA

Free Nelson Mandela (1984)

Song for Nelson Mandela while he was imprisoned on Robben Island.

Bruce Springsteen

American skin (41 shots) (2000)

Song about New York Police shooting unarmed immigrant Amadou Diallo.

Keep your eyes on the prize: hold on (2006)

Spiritual and theme song of US civil rights movement.

Dead man walking (1995)

Song about the death penalty.

Sting

Children's crusade (1985)

Song about child soldiers in World War One.

Tears for Fears

Women in chains (1989)

Song about maltreatment and violence against women worldwide.

U2

One (1991)

Song about unity and the need for everyone to get along together in this world if it is to survive.

Pride (in the name of love) (1984)

Tribute to Martin Luther King.

Walk on (2000)

Tribute to Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi.

Mothers of the 'disappeared' (1987)

Song about the thousands of people who were taken by the military juntas of Chile and Argentina and never heard of again (the 'disappeared').

Sunday bloody Sunday (1983)

Song about the killing of citizens in Dublin 1920 and Derry 1972 by British soldiers.

Suzanne Vega

Luka (1987)

Song about child abuse.

Giuseppe Verdi

Nabuco (1836)

Song about tyrannical Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar featuring the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves.

Va pensiero sull' all' Dorate (Act Three) (1841)

Exiles dreaming of their homeland.



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Stevie Wonder

How come, how long? (1997)

Song about domestic violence.

Neil Young

Ohio (1970)

Song protesting the killing of anti-war protesters at Kent State University.

Let's impeach the President (2006)

Song protesting about the Iraq war.