



Fratelli tutti

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL TOGETHER

Universal Human Rights

In today's world, many forms of injustice persist, fed by reductive anthropological visions and by a profit-based economic model that does not hesitate to exploit, discard and even kill human beings. While one part of humanity lives in opulence, another part sees its own dignity denied, scorned or trampled upon, and its fundamental rights discarded or violated". What does this tell us about the equality of rights grounded in innate human dignity?

Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, paragraph 22

Scripture

Learn to do good; commit yourselves to seeking justice. Make right for the world's most vulnerable— the oppressed, the orphaned, the widow.

Isaiah 1:17

Watch

Human Rights in two minutes (Each Other) <https://eachother.org.uk/human-rights-explained-in-a-beautiful-two-minute-animation/>

A short film explain the history and development of human rights in the UK.

Questions for discussion

- Which articles of the UDHR or the ECHR can I name/ recognise?
- Which rights are most important to me, and I understand how I am protected by them?
- Does my faith uphold the universality of all human rights and the dignity of all people, or are there issues where my faith clashes with the rights of others?

Other Church Teaching

Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man. The person represents the ultimate end of society, which is ordered to him. What is at stake is the dignity of the human person, whose defence and promotion have been entrusted to us by the Creator, and to whom the men and women at every moment of history are strictly and responsibly in debt.

Respect for the human person entails respect for the rights that flow from his dignity as a

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creature. These rights are prior to society and must be recognized by it. They are the basis of the moral legitimacy of every authority: by flouting them, or refusing to recognize them in its positive legislation, a society undermines its own moral legitimacy.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 1928 & 1929.

It is evident, though, that the rights recognized and expounded in the Declaration apply to everyone by virtue of the common origin of the person, who remains the high-point of God's creative design for the world and for history. They are based on the natural law inscribed on human hearts and present in different cultures and civilizations.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the United Nations General Assembly, 18 April 2008

Listen

Love One Another (Newsboys) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAFMGRMhFsM>

Give me your eyes (Brandon Heath) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5AkNqLuVgY>

Prayer

God of peace, breath on this fractured world and heal the divisions that grow daily wider.
Breathe on leaders, that they might respect the right of all human beings to live in peace.
Breathe on those who hate, opening the hand clenched in a fist, that it might embrace.
Breathe on the influential, that their power might be used for the common good of all.
Breathe on the individual, and bring freedom from conflict, and a life that's free from fear.
God of peace, breath on this fractured world.

Amen

Written by John Birch, faithandworship.com

Further Learning

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

Brief history of human rights <https://www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/brief-history/the-united-nations.html>

Catholic Social Teaching and Human Rights (Lecture by Prf. Mary McAlesese, 2019) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgCpGOi2UU>

Council of Europe; COMPASS Manual for Human Rights Education <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass>