

Research
Based
Curricula



**What is the Biggest
Danger That We Face?
International Relations**

Key Stage 4
Citizenship Studies
Resource 3

2019



Resource Three

Overview



Topic	Issues in International Relations: Human Rights
GCSE Modules	Rights and responsibilities.
Objectives	<p>After completing this Resource, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Be able to define what 'Human Rights' are✓ Be able to provide an example of a Human Right✓ Be able to explain why Human Rights are important✓ Be able to discuss key issues and debates in Human Rights and international relations today
Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the data source2. Complete the activities3. Explore the further reading
Context	<p>This Resource is concerned with an issue in international relations which is Human Rights. Part One will explore what Human Rights are and how they have featured in international relations with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the Resource, we will consider the importance of Human Rights.</p> <p>Part Two will then look at issues in Human Rights and international relations today. For many people around the world, human rights are not respected and are being threatened. We will look at examples of this and questions to be considered in international relations.</p>

Resource Three

Data Source



Section A

What are human rights?

Amnesty International,
'What are human
rights?',
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/what-are-human-rights>



'Human rights are the **fundamental** rights and freedoms that belong to every single one of us, anywhere in the world. Human rights apply no matter where you are from, what you believe in, or how you choose to live your life.

Human rights can never be taken away, but they can sometimes be restricted – for example if a person breaks the law, or in the interests of national security. These rights and freedoms are based on values like dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence. But human rights are not just abstract concepts (ideas) – they are defined and protected by law.

After the horrors of the Second World War, a document was written specifically to outline and protect every single human being's basic rights. In 1948, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights was established to do exactly that. There are 30 rights and freedoms set out by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). They include the right to asylum, the right to freedom from torture, the right to free speech and the right to education. Seven decades on, and the rights they included continue to form the basics for all Human Rights Law.

Human rights have some key qualities, agreed by the international community. They must be recognised as: Universal: they belong to every single person; Inalienable: they cannot be taken away from us; Indivisible and interdependent: governments should not be able to pick and choose which rights are respected.

Human rights are not just about the law. They are also about the decisions we make and situations we experience on a daily basis. If we feel annoyed with something a politician does, most of us wouldn't think twice about talking about it with our friends online or in a pub. But when you do, you are exercising a human right – your right to free speech.

Resource Three

Data Source



That's the thing about human rights. When they are being respected they go almost unnoticed. Most children in the UK don't wake up on a school day celebrating their ability to exercise their right to education. But those who have fled countries in which they were denied the right to go to school may well appreciate it that bit more. We often take our human rights for granted, because they are based on principles that are *intuitive* – dignity, fairness, equality, respect and autonomy. More often than not, it is only when our rights are being violated that we stand up and take notice.

Unfortunately human rights abuses are *rife* – thousands of people across the world are denied a fair trial, tortured and imprisoned because of what they think or believe. Civilians are targeted at times of war. Children are forced to fight. That is why it's important that we do not take human rights for granted. And why it's important that they are protected under International Law, so that we can hold states and people to account when they commit *atrocities*.

Section B

Image of human rights

Photo accessed
<https://ijrcenter.org/2012/12/10/its-human-rights-day-get-an-i-am-a-human-with-rights-t-shirt-make-twice-the-impact/>



Section C

World Human Rights Day

Photo accessed
<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/human-rights-and-the-uno/>



Resource Three

Data Source



Section D

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Amnesty International UK, 'What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?'
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/universal-declaration-human-rights-UDHR>

The traumatic events of the Second World War brought home that human rights are not always **universally respected**. The extermination of almost 17 million people during the Holocaust, including 6 million Jews, horrified the entire world. After the war, governments worldwide made a **concerted** effort to **foster** international peace and prevent conflict. This resulted in the establishment of the United Nations in June 1945.

In 1948, representatives from the 50 member states of the United Nations came together under the guidance of Eleanor Roosevelt (the wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States 1933-1945) to **devise** a list of all the human rights that everybody across the world should enjoy. On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations announced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - 30 rights and freedoms that belong to all of us. Seven decades on and the rights they included continue to form the basis for all International Human Rights Law.

Eleanor Roosevelt was heavily involved in championing civil rights and social activism. She was appointed chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights which drafted the UDHR. On the tenth anniversary of the UDHR, Eleanor gave a speech at the United Nations called '*Where Do Human Rights Begin?*'. Part of her speech has become famous for capturing the reason why human rights are for every one of us, in all parts of our daily lives:

'Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity,

Resource Three

Data Source



equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.' – Eleanor Roosevelt, 1958

The UDHR marked an important shift by daring to say that all human beings are free and equal, regardless of colour, creed or religion. For the first time, a global agreement put human beings, not power politics, at the heart of its agenda.

The 30 rights and freedoms set out in the UDHR include the right to asylum, the right to freedom from torture, the right to free speech and the right to education. It includes civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy. It also includes economic, social and cultural rights, like the right to social security, health and education.

Section E

Human Rights Principles

Image accessed
<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/projects/rights-and-freedoms-right-right>

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.



Section F

Human Rights Watch and The Conversation, 'Human Rights in 2018: Ten Issues That Made Headlines'

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/12/10/human-rights-2018-ten-issues-made-headlines>

'On December 10, the world marks 70 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Regrettably, instead of the anniversary signalling the **enduring** impact of human rights, some are fearing the "end of human rights." Here we highlight some of the rights challenges that captured the world's attention this year, revealing the struggle to secure human rights is far from over.

Resource Three

Data Source



1. Australia's first year on the UN Human Rights Council

Australia took its place on the UN Human Rights Council this year for a three-year term. Australia delivered a strong statement about one country (Myanmar) and its [atrocities](#) against Rohingya Muslims. However, Australia itself was criticised for holding refugees and asylum seekers offshore and not allowing them to enter Australia. While Australia supported important country resolutions, it failed to take a leadership role on any key issues.

2. United States' retreat from Human Rights Council

The US faced international condemnation (criticism) when it quit the Human Rights Council, calling it a "protector of human rights abusers and a place of political bias." The US has long complained of the council's perceived bias against the State of Israel. But, by withdrawing, the US decreased its options for confronting and addressing human rights violators. This increases the responsibility of governments like Australia's to ensure the council addresses the world's most serious human rights [violations](#).

3. Violence against women

In Australia, while the #MeToo movement has encouraged women to come forward with their experiences of sexual harassment and abuse, a number of high-profile cases of alleged sexual harassment by actors and politicians highlighted ongoing barriers to justice for victims.

4. Facebook's reckoning

Free speech and privacy came under the microscope in March, when a former employee of Cambridge Analytica blew the whistle on its practice of gaining data from millions of US Facebook users in an effort to influence the 2016

Resource Three

Data Source



presidential elections. Cambridge Analytica was also investigated in the UK for a possible role in the Brexit referendum.

There is also growing criticism of Facebook for not doing enough to stop its use to spread hate speech. For example, in Myanmar (a state in Asia) it has been used as a tool to [incite](#) violence against Rohingya Muslims.

5. Rohingya crisis

In August, a UN Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar, which included Australian human rights expert Chris Sidoti, delivered a report detailing crimes against humanity, war crimes, sexual violence and possible [genocide](#) by Myanmar's security forces against the Rohingya.

The UN Human Rights Council, in response, created a mechanism to collect and preserve evidence to assist future prosecutions for [atrocity](#) crimes in Myanmar. Australia joined other Western nations in imposing targeted [sanctions](#) on military officers named in the UN report. While the Australian government maintains an arms (weapons) [embargo](#) on Myanmar, Australian defense forces continue to provide training to the Myanmar military.

6. Crackdown against Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang

Turkic Muslims in China's northwestern Xinjiang region have long faced [repression](#). In 2018, Human Rights Watch and others reported an escalation in this [repression](#) with the government detaining 1 million people in political re-education camps, with evidence of their torture and mistreatment. Muslims not detained still face large controls on freedom of movement and religion.

Resource Three

Data Source



Section G

Lizzy Buchan,
'Government attacked
over £4.6bn arms sales
to Saudi Arabia',

The Independent,
29-11-2017,
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-british-arms-weapons-sales-saudi-arabia-billions-snp-ian-blackford-attack-government-a8082181.html>

The British Government has been attacked for allowing £4.6 billion arms (weapons) sales with Saudi Arabia amid calls for the Middle Eastern kingdom to end its blockade of Yemen (a state in the Middle East where Saudi Arabia is fighting in against the Houthi group in Yemen).

One political leader, Ian Blackford, said the Saudi regime must "stop killing children" as he condemned (criticised) the Government for failing to suspend selling arms to Saudi Arabia during the devastating three-year conflict in Yemen.

However, politician Damian Green said the UK had "one of the most **rigorous** and **robust** defence sales regimes in the world".

It comes as the Prime Minister Theresa May faced pressure to raise the humanitarian crisis during a three-day trip to the Middle East, where she will hold talks with leaders in Saudi Arabia and Jordan (states in the Middle East). Thousands of people have been killed in the conflict in Yemen.

Another politician said "the UK Government has received £4.6 billion in selling arms to Saudi Arabia, since the war in Yemen began."

"A war which has created a devastating humanitarian crisis. Yemen is now on the brink of famine and UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) has said 150,000 children will die by the end of this year. Don't you agree that the best thing the Prime Minister can do with her meetings today is follow the example of the Netherlands and suspend licences for arms sales to Saudi Arabia and stop killing children?"

Mr Green from the Prime Minister's political party responded that people in the UK depend on money from the arms sales: "You said the Government will receive the money – it will be the companies that receive the money and therefore their workers. And if arm sales are stopped, jobs in the UK will be lost."

Resource Three

Data Source



Mr Green said that the UK is continuing its humanitarian efforts to try and improve the terrible conditions in Yemen, such as giving humanitarian aid (such as food supplies for the people in Yemen). The UK is the fourth largest humanitarian donor to Yemen and continues to support Saudi involvement in the conflict, which is backed by the UN Security Council, he said.

The Prime Minister was expected to raise the threat of famine in Yemen when she meets Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia (who has important political power in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East) on Wednesday.

Mark Goldring, Oxfam chief executive, said: "In the midst of the world's worst cholera epidemic on record and with the country on the brink of the worst famine in recent years, the UK needs to do more than talk tough - it needs to exert real pressure and take action.

"As the country responsible for drafting UN Security Council resolutions on Yemen, the UK should be ready to step up international pressure on Saudi Arabia to persuade them to lift the blockade and on all sides push for peace.

"The Government should stop authorizing arms sales which are fuelling the war in Yemen. It is a shameful contradiction that the UK is allowing for profiting out of people's suffering. "If the Prime Minister's pleas fall of deaf ears, sanctions on the Saudi-led coalition should be introduced to force them to face up to their actions, and to prevent countless more people becoming innocent victims of the conflict, starvation and disease."

Section H

Britain and Saudi Arabia
agree \$90 billion trade
deal

Image accessed
<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1261706/business-economy>



Resource Three

Activities



Activities 1) What year was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established?
a) 1928 b) 1938 c) 1948 d) 1958 e) 1968

2) How many rights and freedoms are set out by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
a) 10 b) 20 c) 25 d) 30 e) 35

3) Provide an example of a right contained in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

4) Match these definitions to the correct word:

Human rights have qualities recognised by the international community. These are:

UNIVERSAL *they cannot be taken away from us*

INALIENABLE *governments should not be able to pick and choose which rights are respected*

INDIVISIBLE & *they belong to every single person*

INTERDEPENDENT

5) Discuss an example of what ways peoples' rights around the world are violated. Aim to write 2-3 sentences for your answer.

6) Assess what Source B is attempting to show. How does this connect with what is discussed in sources A and D? (can you find similarities?). Aim to write 1 paragraph or more.

Resource Three

Activities



- Activities**
- 7) Evaluate the connections between Sources B, C and E. Are there any similarities or differences? Aim to write 1 paragraph or more.
- 8) Draw your own image, write your own phrase, or do both of these to promote what human rights is about.
- 9) Your state is considering getting rid of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Human Rights Law that your state has signed up to. Compose a letter to persuade your leader and citizens why respecting human rights and Human Rights Law is important. In this letter, think of an example of a human right and assess the implication (effects or consequences) if this human right was removed.
- Try to write 2 paragraphs or more. If you want to challenge yourself, do some independent research and extend your answer to a short essay of 5-6 paragraphs by thinking of other human rights and the implications if these were also removed.
- 10) Read Source F. Evaluate the situation with human rights around the world today. How would you describe it? What challenges are there? Try to write 2 paragraphs or more. If you want to challenge yourself, do some independent research and extend your answer to a short essay of 5-6 paragraphs by thinking about the situation of human rights. Use examples in your answer.
- 11) Read Source G and observe Source H. Should states cooperate with other states which abuse human rights? And, should the UK stop selling arms (weapons) to Saudi Arabia whilst the conflict in Yemen continues? Give reasons for your answer. Try to write 2 paragraphs or more. If you want to challenge yourself, do some independent research and extend your answer to a short essay of 5-6 paragraphs regarding this question and the issues it is concerned with.

Resource Three

Further Reading



Explore

'The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights at the United Nations'

'Who We Are'

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/Mandate.aspx>



Human Rights Watch- reporting on and assessing human rights around the world, <https://www.hrw.org/#>

[Human Rights Watch: An Introduction to Human Rights Advocacy](#)



www.researchbasedcurricula.com



www.access-ed.ngo



@_AccessEd



hello@access-ed.ngo



100 Black Prince Road
London, SE1 7SJ



AccessEd is a non-profit company
registered in England (#10383890)