

# Human Rights



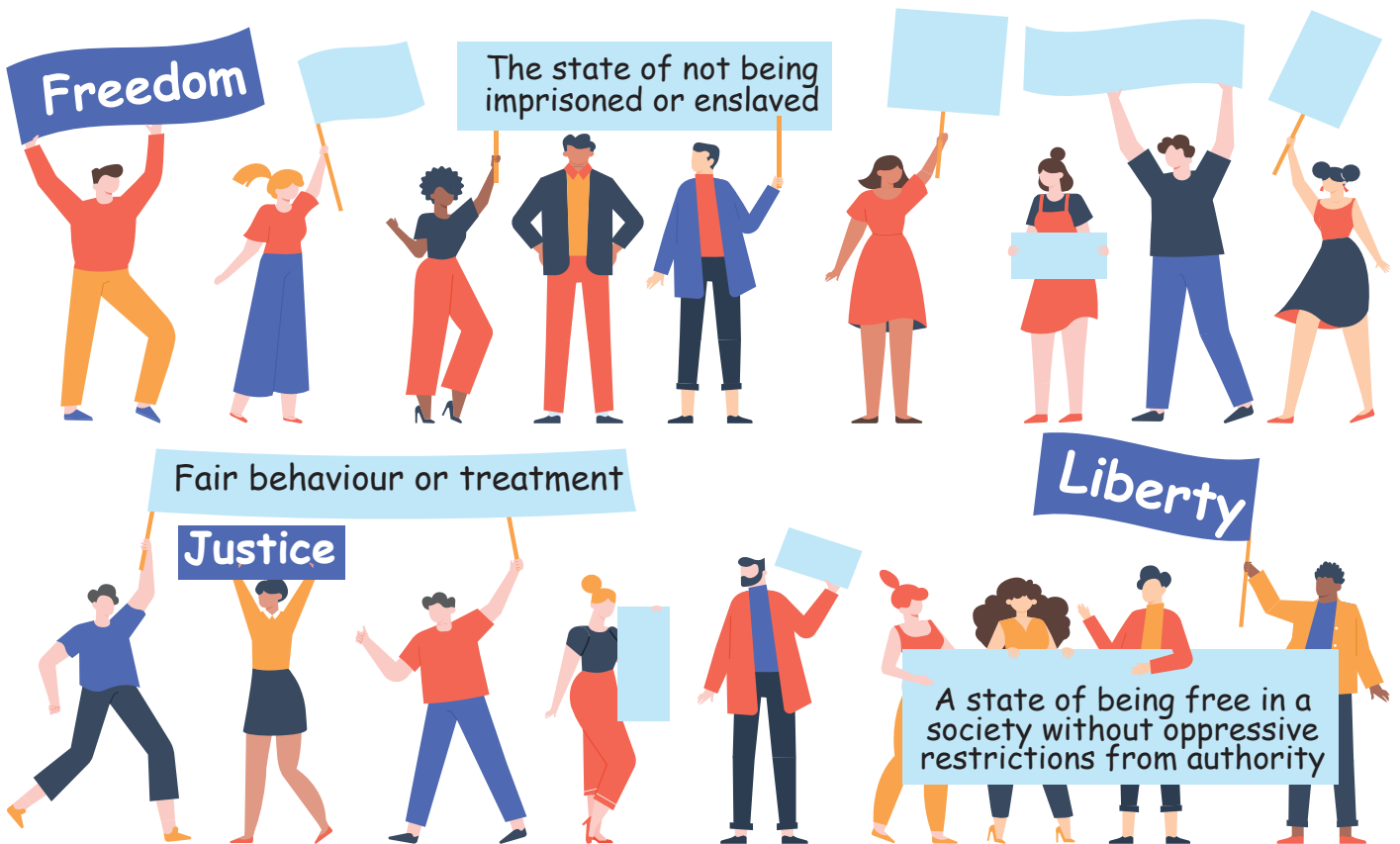
What is a **right**?



A **right** is having the entitlement to do, or not do certain actions, or to be in certain states. Or, that *others* not do certain actions or be in certain states. For example, everyone has the right to work and not be subjected to slavery.

Rights are legal and social entitlements that protect and provide **justice** to individuals in a society.

Rights usually include **freedoms**.



Brainstorm with a partner to create a list of examples of rights and freedoms that should belong to all individuals around the world. Compare your list with those of your classmates and discuss your observations.

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All human rights are important for people to live a happy, safe, and successful life. In particular, **fundamental** rights recognise a high degree of protection for individuals from intrusion or invasion of liberties.

Fundamental rights are usually protected in a constitution. This is an important element that forms the basis of stable democratic government as it ensures the authorities follow the laws which maintain human rights for the people.

Every human in the world should be able to have fundamental rights and freedoms for the term of their life. However, this has not always been the case as many people have been denied basic human rights for centuries.


The story of evil King John is a great example of how the people stood against tyranny and oppression to fight for their rights, during medieval times.

The United Nations was formed in 1945 after World War II. The catastrophic events of two world wars within a few decades re-focused efforts on protecting and preserving basic rights and freedoms for all individuals around the world.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written by the United Nations in 1948 and supports nations in providing a set of standards, which clearly define fundamental human rights and how they should be protected by the rule of law.

*The Declaration of Human Rights promotes understanding, tolerance, and friendship among citizens from all nations, including all racial or religious groups.*

*The declaration guides governments towards maintaining peace and security for all people living in a global community.*



### Task 1

Think about what *your* rights should be. Identify one of these rights and answer the questions below:

**WHAT** is the right?

**WHO** is alleged to have the right? (children, animals workers, states, or all people)

**WHY** is this right important?

### Task 2

Some rights are broken, either by authorities or individuals. Why do you think this happens?

### Task 3

Citizens living in a democratic society often forget how **fragile** maintaining human rights can be. Which countries around the world are currently fighting to gain or maintain human rights?

