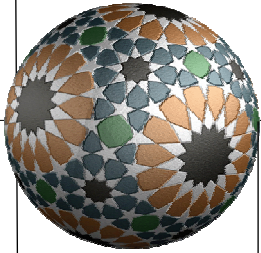


# Human rights & wrongs for Palestinians



## Learning outcomes

- ◇ Students will explore human rights and their relationship to one another
- ◇ Students will gain an appreciation of how human rights are violated in conflict zones—through a consideration of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- ◇ Students will consider some of the controversies surrounding human rights
- ◇ Students will use the internet to perform research

### Lesson in brief

Students will consider human rights in the abstract, thinking about which rights might take precedence over others. They will then conduct research and discuss a number of human rights issues in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### National curriculum

Citizenship – KS 3 – Unit 03—Human rights

Citizenship—KS 4— Unit 01—Human rights

**Materials:** A copy of the list of human rights for each student. As many copies of the human rights cards as there are groups and the same number of pairs of scissors

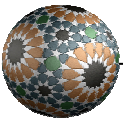
## Lesson Plan

- ◆ Ask students what they think of when they think of 'human rights'. After a class brainstorming, hand out the list of human rights and discuss them
- ◆ Divide the class into groups and play the human rights game (see box)
- ◆ Bring the class together conducting a class discussion (see the following pages for details)
- ◆ Instruct the students to fill in the rights table through research either alone or in pairs



### The Human Rights Game

1. The aim of the game is to collect as many cards as possible.
2. Distribute one set of Human Rights cards between each group.
3. At the beginning of each round, each player puts down one card.
4. The group have a discussion to decide which Human Rights card is the most important of those set down, and therefore which player wins the round. Each player wants to win as many cards as possible, and so needs to argue why the Human Right that they put down should not be sacrificed to the others.
5. Make a note of the Rights that are 'lost'.
6. Repeat for every round until the cards are finished.
7. The player with the most Human Rights cards at the end is the winner!



# Universal Declaration of Human Rights

For the original text visit [www.un.org/Overview/rights.html](http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html)

## EVERYONE has the right...

1. To be born free and equal in dignity and rights, and should be treated in the same way
2. To be equal despite differences in language, sex, colour, religion etc
3. To life and to live in freedom and security.
4. Not to be held in slavery
5. Not to be tortured or subjected to cruel treatment
6. To be recognized before the law
7. To be treated equally before the law
8. To ask for legal help if their rights are not respected
9. Not to be imprisoned unjustly
10. To a fair trial
11. To be presumed innocent until proven guilty
12. To privacy
13. To freedom of movement within, and to and from their own country.
14. To asylum from persecution
15. To a nationality
16. To freely marry and found a family
17. To own property and things
18. To freedom of thought, conscience and religion
19. To freedom of opinion and expression
20. To meet with others and peacefully assemble
21. To take part in government and to vote
22. To social security
23. To work, to work in just conditions and to join a trade union.
24. To rest and leisure
25. To an adequate standard of living and medical care
26. To education
27. To take part in their community's cultural life
28. To a social and international order that is necessary for these rights.
29. Must respect the rights of others
30. No-one can take away any of the rights in this Declaration



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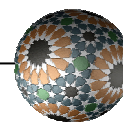


## Follow-Up Discussion

Which rights 'trumped' the others? Why?

What problems did you have deciding which rights were more important? Is it even possible to prioritise Human Rights in this way?

Which Rights did you 'lose'? How would your life be different without those rights?



# The human rights game

## Right to equality

- ⇒ The foundation of all human rights - every person has rights by virtue of being human
- ⇒ Without equality, the concept of human rights becomes meaningless

## Right to life & to live in freedom and security

- ⇒ Is there any situation in which this right could be legitimately sacrificed?

## Right not to be held in slavery

- ⇒ What forms can slavery take? Consider the case of bonded labour.

## Right not to be hurt or tortured

- ⇒ Can you exercise any of your other rights without this one? For example, what use is the right to work if you are being tortured?

## Right to be recognised and treated equally before the law

- ⇒ What might the consequences be of this right not being met?

## Right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty

## Right not to be imprisoned unjustly

## Right to a fair trial

- ⇒ What other rights does this relate to?

## Right to privacy

- ⇒ This right does not appear hugely important at first glance but can you think of ways that it might be?

## Right to meet with others

- ⇒ Does this relate to any of the other political rights?
- ⇒ Could this right be legitimately sacrificed in a state of emergency?

## Right to travel to and from their own country

- ⇒ What other rights might be violated if you could not return to your own country or if your freedom of movement was regularly limited within it?

## Right to asylum

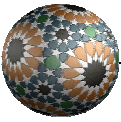
- ⇒ What might the consequences be of this right not being met?

## Right to a nationality

- ⇒ Think about the other rights that depend on having a nationality and citizenship
- ⇒ Are rights truly universal, or do they rely on having a state to protect them?

## Right to marry

- ⇒ Who do you think could stop people from freely marrying and founding their own family? Family, community, state?



### **Right to own property**

- ⇒ You could include your body amongst your 'property'.
- ⇒ Can you prepare for the future without property?

### **Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

- ⇒ Would you want to live if you could not practice your religion or think what you wanted?

### **Freedom of expression and opinion**

- ⇒ Why is it important to express your ideas & beliefs? Would it be better to more important to someone to have this right or the right to life & security?

### **Right to take part in government and vote**

- ⇒ What advantages would this have?

### **Right to social security**

- ⇒ Who would provide this? In what circumstances would social security be essential?

### **Right to work and join a trade union**

- ⇒ What other rights do trade unions aim to protect? How do they work? Can you live adequately without a job or with bad pay?

### **Right to rest and leisure**

- ⇒ This is to guard against slave labour.
- ⇒ How would you feel about working a 24 hour day, seven days a week?

### **Right to adequate standard of living & medical help**

- ⇒ What other rights might be compromised if this right was not met?

### **Right to education**

- ⇒ What role does your education play in the rest of your life?
- ⇒ Might other rights be compromised if you're not educated?

### **Right to take part in your community's cultural life**

- ⇒ Why might this be important?

### **Must respect the rights of others**

- ⇒ Do rights come with responsibilities?

### **No-one can take away any of the rights in this Declaration**

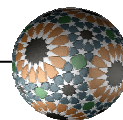
- ⇒ Your rights cannot be sold or transferred to someone else. They are your rights for life

### **Right to a social & international order necessary for these rights**

- ⇒ Who or what ensures that peoples's rights are protected? In what kind of context would respect for human rights flourish?

### **Right to ask for legal help if their rights are not respected**

- ⇒ What meaning do rights have if there is no way of enforcing them?



# Israelis and Palestinians....



Why is the situation in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967 (Occupied Palestinian Territories, oPT) an important one to consider?

This is what the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied territories, John Dugard, says:

If the West, cannot demonstrate a real commitment to the human rights of the Palestinian people, the international human rights movement, which can claim to be the greatest achievement of the international community of the past 60 years, will be endangered and placed in jeopardy.

There are other regimes, particularly in the developing world, that suppress human rights, but there is no other case of a Western-affiliated regime that denies self-determination and human rights to a developing people and that has done so for so long. This explains why the oPT has become a test for the West, a test by which its commitment to human rights is to be judged. If the West fails this test, it can hardly expect the developing world to address human rights violations seriously in its own countries, and the West appears to be failing this test.

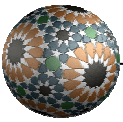
Human rights are universal—which means they belong to every individual in the world regardless of age, gender or nationality

## Research

Find out which human rights of Palestinians and Israelis are violated most often. These are good places to start:

- ◆ Amnesty Report: Enduring Occupation—Palestinians Under Siege in the West Bank  
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGMDE150332007>
- ◆ Report of John Dugard, Special Rapporteur  
<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G07/105/44/PDF/G0710544.pdf?OpenElement>
- ◆ Also try searching Israel's Ministry of Defense, Human Rights Watch, B'Tselem, Electronic Intifada
- ◆ As you are researching, complete the following table writing down any violated right that you come across with a few words about how it is violated or why it is important. You don't have to write the same right in each column...

Israeli	Palestinian
Right to live in freedom and security	Right to live in freedom and security
Right to...	Right to...



## Discussing the right to self-determination

Consider Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR):

All peoples have the right of self-determination, including the right to determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.



- Who is the protector of human rights? What about the state? For example, if your rights were violated would you expect the state (via the police and the courts) to take action on your behalf? Are passports merely a permit to travel, or do they have other benefits as well, such as ensuring that as a citizen of Britain, your rights are respected abroad? Go through the list of rights—which rights do you think would require a state to enforce them? So what effects does not having a state or citizenship have on the everyday lives of Palestinians—who ensures that their rights are being protected/ who is responsible if their rights are violated?
- Why would a national group want to rule themselves and not be ruled by others?
- Why are the rights to self-determination and a nationality so important?
- How would your life be different if you did not have these rights?
- How can the right of the Palestinians to self-determination be balanced against the right of the Jews to have a homeland?

## Do people's rights ever clash?

It is important need to balance one peoples' rights with another's. Can one groups' rights ever take precedence over another groups'? If not, how can any compromise be reached between the two? The needs of the Palestinians and the Israelis are often presented as being **mutually exclusive**, meaning that they can't both be achieved..



There is an argument on the Israeli side that the continued occupation of the Palestinian territories is necessary in order to ensure Israel's security. They fear Palestinian militants who have called for the destruction of Israel in the past. Palestinians argue that the measures that Israel is taking to ensure its security, not only undermine a peaceful solution but also cannot be justified as self-defence. What does your research lead you to believe?

This is Amnesty International's view. What do you think about it?

Durable security cannot be addressed by more repression...It can only be achieved if the human rights of all are guaranteed.