

HUMAN RIGHTS and International DEVELOPMENT

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS? Human rights are the rights and freedoms that we all have. Our rights include: the right to life, to be free from torture and abuse, to go to school and to work. We have the right to shelter and to food, the right to practise a religion, and the right to think and say what we want as long as we don't hurt anyone. Every person has every human right because we are all born equal and should be treated with equal dignity and respect.

WHERE DO RIGHTS COME FROM? Human rights are based on fairness, dignity, justice, equality and respect. These are values that everybody can understand, and that have existed for hundreds of years in different societies all over the world. Human rights were officially recognised as universal values by the world when the United Nations (UN) was set up.

WHY DO HUMAN RIGHTS MATTER TO CHILDREN IN THE UK? Human rights matter to us all, even if we sometimes feel that they are only important to people in other countries. There are plenty of children in the UK whose rights are not being respected: one child in three lives in poverty, one child in four is physically abused, and one child in seven does not have a proper home. Children may not know that their rights are being ignored or how they can change their situation. All young people should know their rights and understand how they can use their rights to protect themselves. All adults have a responsibility to uphold the rights of all children.

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS? The UN is an international organisation made up of 192 countries known as 'member states'. It was created in 1945 as the world emerged from the Second World War. Its founders were shocked by the destruction of the war and the horrors of the Holocaust. They wanted to create an international organisation that they hoped would be able to prevent such catastrophes from happening in the future. So promoting human rights, along with maintaining international peace and reducing poverty, became an aim of the UN.

"The billion poorest people in the world struggle for survival from day to day, with little hope of having a voice to help improve their lives and the lives of their children. Giving simple, practical support to help the most excluded and powerless in the poorest countries in the world is a first step towards giving them hope and improving their future." Douglas Alexander, UK Secretary of State for International Development

COULD YOU LIVE ON 65p A DAY?

One in five people live on less than 65p a day – that's over a billion people in the world. If you were asked to explain the word 'poverty', you would probably give an answer related to money. But poverty is about more than how much money you make.

Poverty means...	It threatens...	Which also affects...
You can't afford a proper home	Your right to shelter	Your right to security – it is difficult to feel safe without shelter
You don't have enough to eat	Your right to food	Your right to education – it is hard to study without food
You can't go to school	Your right to education	Your right to work – poor education makes it hard to get a good job
You are more likely to catch a disease	Your right to health	Your right to life – 10 million children a year die before their fifth birthday



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DECLARATION
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RIGHTS
Dignity and justice for all of us

POVERTY IS A HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM

Poverty can affect many human rights, such as the rights to food, shelter, education and health. Reducing poverty is one of the main aims of the United Nations. The others are: maintaining international peace and promoting human rights. These three aims are commonly referred to as **development, peace and security**, and **human rights**. They are all connected. For example, it is hard for human rights to exist if there is no development, or if there is no peace and security because of war.

WHAT EXACTLY IS 'DEVELOPMENT'?

Development is a term used to describe efforts to reduce poverty by developing (poorer) countries, developed (richer) countries and international organisations like the UN. Many of the problems that affect us (such as war, diseases like HIV/AIDS, terrorism and drugs) are caused or made worse by poverty. So reducing poverty through international development benefits us all by helping to maintain peace and promote human rights.

UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

'Millennium Development Goals' (MDGs) is the name given to one of the most important development plans in recent history. At the start of the new millennium, world leaders made a pact to halve extreme poverty by 2015. This aim was broken down into eight development goals that can be measured: the MDGs. The MDGs aim to:

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| 1 end extreme poverty and hunger | 6 stop HIV/AIDS and diseases like malaria |
| 2 achieve universal education | |
| 3 promote equality between men and women | 7 protect the environment |
| 4 reduce child deaths | 8 improve cooperation between rich and poor countries |
| 5 improve the health of mothers | |

The MDGs have already helped to improve the human rights of many children and adults around the world. Since the MDGs were launched in 2000, 41 million more children attend school, 3 million more children are surviving childhood each year, and 2 million more people are receiving treatment for AIDS.

WHAT IS THE UK DOING?

The UK government supports the MDGs in three ways:

- **financially** – the UK is one of the top ten countries that give money to developing countries
- **politically** – the UK tries to get other countries to support the MDGs, for example, at the UN and European Union
- **directly** – through the work of its Department for International Development

GIVING SUPPORT = GIVING HOPE

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) works to meet the MDGs and promote human rights in 150 countries. Children are central to the MDGs and many of DFID's projects focus on children, for example, improving access to education. But DFID doesn't only work **for** children, it works **with** children. Children are key partners who can help make a difference to development. In Kenya, DFID supported the Juja Farm Futures Youth Group, a group of young people who teach other young people about the dangers of HIV/AIDS. The programme's leader says, "It really works. They are able to reach each other easily because they share the same language, same feelings, and they can express themselves better...It was their own initiative, and they've been able to reach so many other youths within the area."

