

Revision Guide: 7.2

What is important in the fight for Justice?

Key Words

Prejudice – Thinking that certain people/cultures are better than others. It means to **Pre-judge** another person.

Discrimination – Acting on a prejudice. Taking a belief like sexism or racism and putting into action. E.g. not giving someone a job that they deserve.

Inequality - The idea that not everyone is treated equally or given **equal rights** in society.

Sexism - Prejudice or discrimination against people **based on their gender**. E.g. not allowing women to vote.

Racism - Prejudice or discrimination against people **based on their race**. E.g. separating schools based on race.

Poverty - The name we give to people living in poor conditions with little or **no access to basic needs** such as water, food and shelter.

Justice – Fairness or giving people respect.

Injustice – Lack of fairness. An unjust act.

Zakat – the compulsory giving of 2.5% of excess wealth by Muslims. 1 of the 5 pillars of Islam.

Sewa – selfless service, a Sikh concept which involves giving and serving others without any desire for it to be returned. E.g. seen in the Langar meal served at Gurdwaras.

Religious Teachings about Justice

Christian Teachings:

God created humans in his own image

*(Genesis 1;27)...*that men and women are equal because God made both.

This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you

(John 15:12)

Muslim Teachings:

All people are created by Allah. All are equal (though not the same). All important in own right.

Muhammad treated others with respect and dignity – we must follow example.

Sikh Teachings:

Every Gurdwara (place of worship) has a Langar Kitchen where **all people are welcome to a free meal regardless of their gender, colour or religion.**

Guru Nanak Devi Ji (the first Guru) taught that every person is equal and should be treated equally. He said that there is no Hindu and no Muslim because everyone is the same in God's eyes.

People who have fought for Justice

Gandhi: Gandhi was a Hindu born in India. He trained to be a lawyer in London and travelled to South Africa as a young man. While in South Africa he experienced racism and apartheid (a separation of people based on race). Gandhi worked to bring about equality by peacefully protesting. Gandhi believed in Ahimsa (non-violence). He later went to India to do the same and protested against British rule; the most famous of

these protests being the salt march. Gandhi was shot and killed by a Hindu in India after getting the British to leave India for good.

Martin Luther King: Martin Luther King was an American Baptist minister who lived in the south of America. Growing up he experienced racism and segregation (black and white people being treated very differently) and he followed Gandhi's example of peaceful protest. He organised the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington. His most famous speech was his "I have a dream" speech which helped to pass the civil rights act. Like Gandhi, MLK was shot and killed and later had a day named after him which became an American holiday.

Malcolm X: Malcolm X was around, in America, at the same time as Martin Luther King and experienced the same kind of racism that MLK experienced. Malcolm X converted to Islam as a young man and approached the problem of racism in a different way to Gandhi and MLK. He did not follow Gandhi's example and instead stated that it was ok to be violent if violent protest was necessary. Later in his life Malcolm X decided that the true meaning of Islam was peace but was assassinated not long after this.

Poverty and Charities

Human needs: Water, Food, Shelter, Education, Employment, Health. One way there is injustice or inequality in the world is that through poverty people do not have access to the basic things that they need to live. Poverty causes injustice and inequality and charities try to help end that by helping people out of poverty. When they have enough to eat, access to clean water and sanitation and health care so that they have a standard of living this brings equality and justice.

Man-made suffering/evil – Evil or suffering caused by people.

Natural suffering/evil – Evil or suffering not caused by people.



Tearfund is a **Christian Charity**. They take the teaching of "love thy neighbour" and use it to help people who live in poverty. Tearfund do this by working with governments to create new policies, working with all churches and communities and responding quickly to disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

Projects include twinning toilets, giving out emergency food, blankets and fresh water after a natural disaster. Training people so that they can farm their land in the face of problems caused by climate change.



Islamic Relief are a **Muslim Charity**. They do not just help other Muslims though. They help any people that are in need! They use their beliefs and teachings to: Support people who have suffered in disasters by giving them emergency food, water and shelter, working with communities to give them access to water and food so that they learn to have the skills to look after themselves and also working to provide education and healthcare around the world. They campaign to change unfair laws and try to bring justice this way too.

What's more important your beliefs or your actions?

Religious believers that actually BOTH matter. If you truly follow your faith then that should be reflected in what you do. All religions teach that injustice and inequality are WRONG and that religious believers should do what they can to bring justice and equality.

Christians are taught to follow Jesus' example and to 'love their neighbour', Jesus also tells a parable of the sheep and goats which teaches that beliefs must be put into action.

Muslims are taught that 1 of the 5 pillars of their faith is giving – this is seen with the giving of Zakat (2.5 % of surplus wealth) which is compulsory for Muslims.

Sikhs are taught that SEWA or selfless service is at the core of their faith – this is demonstrated in the Langar meal.