

Key Words

Human rights – rights which are believed to belong to all people

Social Justice – fighting to ensure all people in society are treated fairly and equally. The belief that we should help the disadvantaged.

Freedom of Religion – the human right to be free to express and practice your religion without persecution.

Absolute poverty – when a person cannot afford the basic necessities of life, such as food/water/shelter etc

Relative poverty – when a person is poor in comparison to the people around them, e.g. not being able to afford all of their bills

Poverty – the state of being without enough money to afford a comfortable life

Charity – an organisation set up to raise money to help those in need.

Poverty

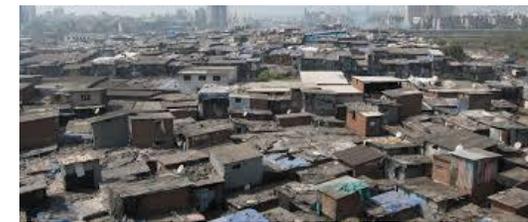
There are two types of poverty, relative and absolute. Most people living in the UK live in relative poverty. As much as 1.6 million people in the UK work full-time and still struggle to afford to live comfortably. The Trussell Trust is a Christian food bank which reports over 823,000 people relied on their food bank between April 2019 and September 2019 – this is an increase of 23% compared to the same time in 2018.

Christian Attitudes – Christians believe as ‘stewards’ of God’s creation, it is their job to look after other human life. This is also stressed in the Bible, where Jesus taught them to ‘love thy neighbour’ and ‘treat others as they wish to be treated’. The parable of the Sheep & the Goats tells Christians that helping those in need is equal to helping Jesus, and the path to Heaven.

Muslim Attitudes – the third pillar of Islam is ‘Zakah’. It is compulsory for Muslims to donate 2.5% of their ‘left over’ money once a year to charity. The Prophet Muhammad taught “those who sleep on a full stomach whilst their neighbour goes hungry is not one of us” – showing that the only way to be a true Muslim is to help those in need. Muslims believe all wealth belongs to Allah and that they have a responsibility to share that wealth.



Human Rights & Social Justice



Social Justice

Social justice is the belief that we have a responsibility to ensure all members of society are treated fairly and equally. We have a duty to look after the disadvantaged, to ensure they have the same opportunities in life as those with more money.

An example in the UK – the postcode lottery; statistics show that the area a person is born in can have an effect on their future life chances. Children born in disadvantaged areas are statistically more likely to be further behind their ‘richer’ peers in education by the time they reach the age of 5.

Wealth

The three richest people in the world have a combined income that adds up to more than the total income of the 48 poorest nations in the world. Wealth means to have an abundance (a lot of) valuable possessions or money.

Christian Attitudes - the Bible teaches Christians that they should share their wealth with those in need: wealth is dangerous and can be a barrier to people entering Heaven, because people can’t serve both God and money at the same time. Issue – some people criticise the church for teaching about the dangers of wealth and greed and then having ornate, beautiful churches filled with expensive objects whilst people starve in the world.

Muslim Attitudes – the Qur’an teaches that Muslims should refrain from charging interest when lending money, they believe money should be reinvested into society. Muslims will be judged on the way they have treated others, and those who have helped those in need will be rewarded with Heaven on the Day of Judgment.