

Unit 1 Handout 4

1. Read the introductory paragraph about *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by 9 representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10th, 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.

2. As mentioned in the paragraph, **9 representatives from different countries drafted the UDHR**. Find out who the drafting committee members were, their professions and their countries of origin. Do some online research.

<i>Drafting Committee Member</i>	<i>Profession</i>	<i>Country of Origin</i>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		

3. Is there anything you noticed from this list that grabbed your attention? What was it? Why? Vote in Menti.

Unit 1 Handout 4

4. Now read the summarized version of the 30 articles listed in the UDHR.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Article</i>
1	All human beings are equal in dignity and rights.
2	Everyone has these rights regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, opinion, origin, property, birth or residency.
3	The right to life, liberty, and personal security.
4	Freedom from slavery.
5	Freedom from torture.
6	The right to be treated equally by the law.
7	The right to equal protection by the law.
8	The right to effective solutions from a competent tribunal.
9	Freedom from arbitrary arrest.
10	The right to a fair public hearing by an independent tribunal.
11	The right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty at a public trial with all the guarantees necessary for your defense.
12	The right to privacy in home, family, and correspondence.
13	Freedom of movement in your own country; the right to leave any country and return to your own country.
14	The right to political asylum.
15	The right to a nationality.
16	The right to marriage and a family; equal rights for men and women during and after marriage.
17	The right to own property.
18	Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.
19	Freedom of opinion and expression; freedom to ask for, receive and give information.
20	Freedom to form peaceful groups and assemblies.
21	The right to take part in and select the government of your country.

Unit 1 Handout 4

22	The right to social security and to the fulfilling of your economic, social and cultural rights.
23	The right to work, to equal pay for equal work, and to form and join trade unions.
24	The right to reasonable hours of work and paid holidays.
25	The right to an adequate living standard for yourself and your family, including food, housing, clothing, medical care, and social security.
26	The right to education.
27	The right to participate in cultural life; the right to be recognized as the author of your work.
28	The right to a social and international order that allows these freedoms to be realized.
29	Everyone has responsibilities to the community and to others as essential for a democratic society.
30	Repression in the name of these rights is unacceptable.

5. Discuss the following questions in groups.

a. Think about 3 articles which are, in your opinion essential for human beings. Justify your choices.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

b. Do you agree with all the articles of the UDHR? Why (not)?

c. Would you remove any articles or include more articles? Which ones and why?

d. Do you think the UDHR represents all the different cultures of the world?

Unit 1 Handout 4

e. Since the UDHR was created in 1948, do you think it should be updated and adjusted to these times?

6. Sometimes people's human rights compete with the rights of others. Look at the cases below identify:

a. which of the rights in the list are being affected.

b. why these situations could potentially be a dilemma.

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Human Rights affected</i>
a) My wife is an alcoholic who spends thousands of pounds on alcohol. She has been in hospital several times because of liver damage. We feel that her alcoholism is an illness and that she therefore deserves free health treatment from the government	
b) I don't want our eldest son to continue with his school studies. He's 9 years old and he has never enjoyed going to school. He has suffered from bullying and his academic performance is quite low. I honestly think he's much better off helping me run the family farm because he's going to own it soon anyway.	
c) I wish that we lived in a world with no religions. In my opinion, religions have caused lots of wars and millions of deaths of innocent people and children. If religions didn't exist, we would have a warless and safe place to live.	
d) Nowadays, there is a major immigration issue in our country. I strongly believe that immigrants have caused a big problem in the borders as well as taken the jobs away from Chilean people. They should go back to their countries and learn to deal with whichever political situation their country is undergoing.	
e) My cousin Pedro and his boyfriend have been in a relationship for several years. They would like to get married and adopt a baby. Unfortunately, in our country homosexual marriage is not allowed and gay couples do not have many chances to adopt, even though they can provide a safe and stable home to children who had been abandoned.	