

Key Terms

Censorship: Limiting access to something because it might cause offense or panic.

Discrimination: Treating someone differently because of their appearance, race, gender, etc.

Extremism: Believing in and supporting ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable.

Human Rights: What we are entitled to to keep us safe, free and equal.

Personal Conviction: Something a person strongly feels or believe in.

Prejudice: Judging someone before knowing them.

Relative Poverty: Feeling that you are poor in comparison to others in society.

Absolute Poverty: Not having access to the basics needed for survival.

Social Justice: Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity.

Amnesty International

Why they fight for Human Rights:

All deserve dignity and freedom from oppression.

How they fight for Human Rights:

Postcard campaigns.
Email campaigns.
Lobbying foreign / corrupt governments.
Passing information on human rights' abuses to the media.
Employing human rights detectives.
Concerts and fundraisers.

Dignity of Human Life / Human Rights

Christianity	Islam
<p>Christians believe that each person is sacred and worthy of respect and dignity. Because of this, Christians feel that each person should be treated with unconditional love. Jesus taught that showing concern for others is a basic duty. This is reinforced in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.</p> <p>Helping others is a religious duty - failing to do this is failing God.</p> <p>Everyone is made 'imago dei' - in the image of God. Everyone should have dignity, equal rights and treatment.</p>	<p>Islam teaches that Allah created all humans and are part of 'Allah's family', and that they should be treated with dignity and take responsibility for each other.</p> <p>The Ummah are expected to care for each other 'like a shepherd is responsible for his flock'. Muhammad said that every action to help others was sadaqah - a kindness that pleases Allah. These actions will be rewarded in paradise.</p> <p>Muhammad also said that you are not a true Muslim until you are kind to your neighbour. Muslims also believe that "he who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".</p>
"do unto others as you would have them do unto you".	"He who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".

Agape in Action

Christianity	Islam
<p>Agape is selfless love and compassion towards another human being. Agape is shown through the work of individuals like Mother Teresa, the Salvation Army and Street Pastors.</p> <p>Mother Teresa: cared selflessly for the unwanted and unloved ill in Calcutta - opening hospices and orphanages.</p> <p>Street Pastors: volunteers from churches who go into city centres on Friday and Saturday nights - caring for the vulnerable, drunk, lost, and homeless.</p>	<p>The Islamic equivalent of agape in action is called Ummah in Action.</p> <p>Ummah in Action is demonstrated through the giving of zakah and sadaqah, as well as through charities such as Islamic Relief.</p>
"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."	"He who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".

Prejudice & Discrimination

Christianity	Islam
<p>P & D are unacceptable because they go against key Christian teachings such as 'love thy neighbour'.</p> <p>The Ten Commandments give guidance on living in harmony with others.</p> <p>Christians follow Jesus' example, i.e.: looking after outcasts and tending to the leper. This proved that all people are equal and worthy of kindness.</p> <p>The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches Christians to treat all people with love and kindness.</p> <p>All people are equally valuable and can have a relationship with God "for God does not show favouritism".</p>	<p>All people are equal, although not the same. All people are important in their own right as they are created by Allah.</p> <p>We can learn from Muhammad's (pbuh) example, i.e: showing respect for women.</p> <p>The ummah (the community of Muslim believers) crosses all cultural, racial and gender boundaries. This proves that everyone is equal and that discrimination is unacceptable.</p> <p>The act of prayer demonstrates equality - EVERYONE prays in exactly the same way, showing that before God everyone is equal.</p>
"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, for all are one in Jesus Christ".	"An Arab is not better than a Non-Arab, a white person is not better than a black person".

Racial Prejudice & Disc

Christianity	Islam
<p>Discrimination is against Christian teachings such as 'love thy neighbour'.</p> <p>God created all human beings as equals no matter their race, gender or ability. "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, for all are one in Jesus Christ".</p> <p>In Genesis it says that God created all human beings in his image. Martin Luther King believed in a fought for the equality of all men, as all deserve equality, dignity and respect.</p>	<p>At Creation, Allah made man from 7 different coloured handfuls of clay. This shows Allah designed human beings to have different races. Discrimination is therefore against Allah.</p> <p>In his final sermon Muhammad said "An Arab is not better than a Non-Arab, a white person is not better than a black person".</p> <p>The Ummah crosses all racial boundaries - anyone and everyone can be a Muslim, so all are equal.</p>
"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, for all are one in Jesus Christ".	"An Arab is not better than a Non-Arab, a white person is not better than a black person".

Islamic Relief

Beliefs	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muhammad said that you are not a true Muslim until you are kind to your neighbour. Muslims also believe that "he who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim". References to being charitable and compassionate are throughout the Qur'an. 	<p>Provide 1st wave emergency relief after disasters - eg: earthquakes, floods - providing water, healthcare, clothing. Provide famine relief.</p> <p>Run water engineering projects.</p> <p>Run an orphan sponsorship program - providing children with gifts, summer camps, a social worker, etc.</p> <p>Education program - building and renovating schools, stocking them, training teachers and subsidising food.</p>
<p>"He who eats whilst his brother goes hungry is not a true Muslim".</p>	

Christian Aid

Beliefs	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a Christian organisation they believe in justice, fairness and equal opportunities for all. They believe that caring for others is a basic duty. They believe that showing "love" and respect is a command of Jesus that they must follow. Christianity teaches that everyone deserves dignity, and where there is injustice this is not possible. 	<p>Projects helping farmers work with new tools, equipment, and arid land.</p> <p>Training- including literacy classes for women and management classes.</p> <p>Projects uniting communities through establishing and funding local groups.</p> <p>Projects providing access to essential resources such as water by digging wells and creating irrigation systems.</p> <p>Give access to money through loans a low interest rates to allow development.</p>
<p>"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."</p>	

Case Studies

Martin Luther King



Belief/personal conviction:

All people are made by God and made equally by God. Everyone deserves human dignity as we are all made in God's image.
We should show unconditional love to others - forgiving the evil deed and turning the other cheek.

Conflict with the law:

The southern states of America had "Jim Crow" or racist laws which allowed legal segregation of black and white Americans. Blacks were denied equality, protection by the law and the opportunity to succeed due to institutional racism and popularly accepted racist attitudes.

Actions:

He moved to Montgomery, Alabama to work in the 'deep south' as a reverend. Helped lead the Bus Boycott in 1955/6. Led the NAACP in peacefully protesting for equal rights. Helped run a student protest group, using the method of civil disobedience. Spoke out publicly against racism and violence. Led the March on Washington where he gave the "I have a dream" speech.

Oscar Romero



Belief/personal conviction:

He knew that all the suffering he saw around him was temporary because when our lives on earth are over we can join God in Heaven. He believed it was his mission to defend the poor and weak. He believed in social justice.

Conflict with the law:

El Salvador became a "security state" where Human Rights were suspended and 'enemies' were executed at will. Protests against unfair elections ended in bloodshed as soldiers machine-gunned the crowds.

Actions:

He instructed all priests to offer sanctuary to those threatened by government troops. He prayed publicly at length beside his friend's remains, and then buried him without gaining government permission - a criminal offence. He excommunicated the murderers of his friends. He started to openly speak out against the government, and hold meetings which had been banned.

Acquisition & Use of Wealth

Christianity	Islam
<p>Greed and snobbishness unacceptable. No lending for profit / unfair methods of getting money. Many Christians do not play the National Lottery / gamble.</p> <p>True giving should involve sacrifice. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats teaches us that those who help the needy will go to heaven.</p> <p>The greedy and those who hoard money will not go to heaven either. A love of money will distract you from loving God. "You cannot serve both God and money".</p>	<p>All wealth is a gift and blessing from Allah. It is not wrong to be wealthy but the more you have the more generous you should be. The value of money is in the good that you can do with it (e.g.: by giving sadaqah - extra donations to charity). Allah tests believers on how well they use their wealth.</p> <p>Wealth cannot be acquired in dishonest ways. Wealth should not be used to harm or exploit others - because of this gambling is forbidden, no lending for profit, no dishonesty.</p>
<p>"it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven".</p>	<p>"Beware of greed for it is ready poverty".</p>

Malala



Belief/personal conviction:

As a Muslim Malala believes fiercely in equality and the rights of women to access education. (She also believes that truth must triumph. She believes in forgiveness.)

Conflict with the law:

She lived in a region of Pakistan where the Taliban had taken authority. They were denying people freedom to practice their own version of Islam (for example forcing girls to cover their faces, burning books and CDs that they thought were 'offensive') and they were refusing to allow girls to access education or go to school.

Actions:

She secretly wrote a blog for the BBC about life under the Taliban. She publicly spoke out against the Taliban and for girls rights to education in Pakistan. She has continued to work for rights to education for all - especially girls - across the world. She has created the Malalafund which runs projects sponsoring girls education in India, Afghanistan, Nigeria and in refugee camps.