

Human Rights

We'll learn about:

- Human rights laws
- Australia's democratic values
- Freedom and equality
- Unlawful discrimination
- Balancing and evolving human rights and responsibilities

Key Words

Word	Meaning	Write a sentence using key word
characteristic	a quality or feature that identifies a person or thing	
discrimination discriminate	seeing the difference between things <i>Dee could discriminate between the different fabric used to make the clothes.</i>	
unlawful discrimination	treating someone worse because of characteristics like their race (ethnic background), age, sex <i>'Refusing to serve me is discrimination' said Ellie in a strong voice.</i>	
diversity	difference <i>There was a diversity of views about what we should do next.</i>	
entitled	have a right to, can have	
equal equality	things are the same in some way <i>Everyone should be given equal education.</i>	
ethnicity / race	about where someone comes from – their national or cultural origin.	
harass	to pressure aggressively	
intimidate	threaten, frighten	
Ignorance ignorant	lack of knowledge or awareness <i>She was ignorant about many things that had happened in her friend's first home country.</i>	
include Inclusive	to make a part of <i>Leena included Saba in her group of friends.</i>	
opportunity	chance	
prejudice	to judge or have an opinion before you know <i>He had a prejudice against that group.</i>	
right	Correct. Allowed or entitled to have or do something (legal right)	

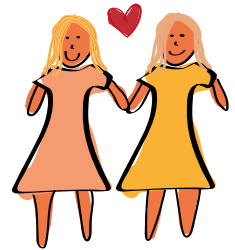
Human Rights

There are basic rights everyone should have because we are human. Everyone should be treated fairly and equally. Human Rights laws are based on standards set out in international charters developed by the United Nations, which have been accepted by many countries. One example is the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*. Search for it online and find other international charters that Australia has signed

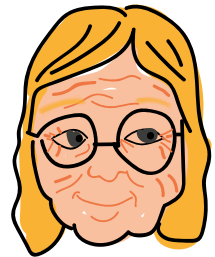
These international rules are not part of the law of a country until they are made into local laws. In Australia human rights laws have developed over time. The laws below, have been made to try to make sure everyone is given equal chance or opportunity,

Match the laws with the image

1975 – Racial Discrimination Act
Race/Ethnic equality



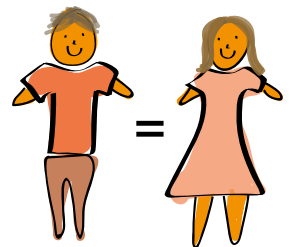
1984 - Sex Discrimination Act
Sex equality



1992 – Disability Discrimination Act
Disability equality



2004 - Age Discrimination Act
Age equality



2008 – Same-Sex Relationships Act
Sexuality equality



2017 – Marriage Equality Law
Same-sex marriage equality

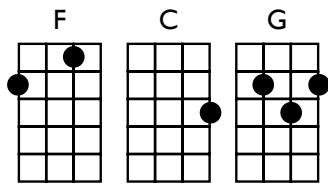


National Values



Stand Together

Ukulele



Golden wattle, green and gold,
Southern Cross, opal stone,
stand together. It's our _____.

Kangaroo and emu too
Commonwealth, that's me and you
Let's stand _____, Not alone

Parliamentary _____
Rule of law, live peacefully
_____ to all. Help those in need.

_____ of speech, of expression
Freedom of association
Follow any _____ or none at all

Freedom it has a price
You can criticise but not harm with lies
With freedom comes _____

Equality of _____
In a fair society, you can reach your goals
Through work and ability

Men and women are _____ too.
No violence, when we argue
No violence

Stand together, not alone
Australia is our home.

Listen closely to the song.

What are the key messages?
Analyse the music.

Learn to play it on ukulele.
www.rails.org.au/education

together

equal

home

Respect

opportunity

Freedom

religion

democracy

responsibility

Freedom

Australia is a democracy where adult citizens freely choose representatives to govern and make laws. The representatives must answer to the people at each election.

Australia's key democratic values according to the government are parliamentary democracy; rule of law; peace; respect for all; help those in need; freedom and equality. All Australians are expected to support these values. Governments should uphold these values. Permanent residents applying to become citizens must know these values to pass the Citizenship Test.

Freedom of speech

Freedom of religion

Peacefulness

Freedom of the individual

Equality under the law

Equality of men and women

Freedom of association

Equality of opportunity

Egalitarianism

Value	What the value mean
	Every individual should be treated with respect whatever their background, sexuality, age or ability.
	We can say and write what we think, within the law.
	We can follow any religion so long as it doesn't break any Australian law. Australia does not have a state religion. Only laws made by parliament apply.
	We can gather together and join groups.
	All Australians should be equal under the law
	Men and women have equal rights.
	You achieve because of your talents, work and effort rather than because of birth or favouritism.
	Change should happen by dialogue, peaceful persuasion and the democratic process.
	Equality – we should be treated the same whatever our status. No one is above anyone else

Equality

Equality under the law, equality of opportunity and gender equality are core human rights and democratic values.

Equality does not mean treating everyone the same. It is more about trying to give everyone the same chance. 'Equal Opportunity'. 'A fair go'.

So while the law says people must be treated equally, it can also require some groups to be given a hand up when they need it. For example, schools must build ramps so people in wheelchairs can have fairer access to education.

Equality is not always Fairness



This is EQUALITY



This is FAIRNESS

What's happening in the image above? Is it a good thing? Why?



Discrimination

Unlawful **'discrimination'** is treating someone worse because of some part of their identity such as their sex, race, religion, politics, gender identity, sexuality, age.

It's **unlawful** to discriminate against someone in work, education, government, accommodation, supply of goods and services (Anti-Discrimination Act (Qld) 1991).

An example of discrimination is refusing to serve someone at a shop or refusing to rent someone a house **because** they are Muslim or Aboriginal.

Contact the **Human Rights Commission** if you think you are being discriminated against.

Find the **highlighted** words

d	g	r	u	s	p	e	c	d	b	b	n	a	d
e	i	u	n	e	h	h	n	w	q	c	v	r	c
c	o	s	l	c	s	u	a	p	f	a	u	r	o
r	r	d	a	r	f	m	m	t	e	g	f	l	m
e	s	e	w	r	a	a	l	r	s	e	h	y	m
f	i	y	f	f	i	n	r	i	g	h	t	s	i
u	d	d	u	u	k	m	t	n	e	q	h	q	s
n	z	d	l	n	t	e	i	e	s	t	k	l	s
d	r	y	n	d	w	c	h	n	e	a	l	u	i
v	b	c	a	v	b	e	c	a	u	s	e	t	o
s	a	t	t	s	s	i	s	i	j	t	i	y	n
d	i	s	c	r	i	m	i	n	a	t	i	o	n
v	l	p	o	v	c	t	g	i	a	a	e	o	y

Discrimination

Unlawful discrimination is treating someone _____ than others because of where they come from, their culture, religion, politics, disability or gender.

If you think someone is treating you unfairly then it's often best to first try to resolve the problem by _____ with them about it, but only if you feel safe to do so.

You can complain to the _____ Commission if you think you have been discriminated against.

A complaint must be in _____ and can be made in any language.

Discrimination is very hard to prove so you should get legal advice _____ deciding whether to put in a complaint.

You can get advice from Legal Aid or contact the Human Rights _____ and talk to them to see if it's worth going ahead to make an official complaint.

If you can prove discrimination then you may get an apology and _____ (money).

If discrimination happens at work, you can complain about the person doing it and also complain about the _____ (boss) for allowing discrimination to happen.

Public acts that spread hate, such as putting _____ comments on websites or shouting abuse in public about someone's ethnic identity, are against the law.

racist

worse

before

Commission

compensation

employer

writing

Human Rights

talking

What are the linking/connecting words in the sentences above?



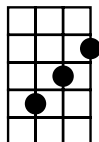
Discrimination Dance



Discrimination Haiku

Ukulele

Em



Listen closely to the song.

What are the key messages?

Analyse the music.

Learn to play it on ukulele.

www.rails.org.au/education

Discrimination

Open our eyes and our minds

Get educated

Educate Educate Educate our selves

Don't judge the whole group

by the actions of the few

No more prejudice

No more pre- No more pre- No more pre-judging

Discrimination

Ignorance and prejudice

We can do better.

We can do We can do. We can do better

Respect regardless

of sex, colour, culture, creed

Human Rights for all

Human Rights. Human Rights. Human Rights for all

This rap is based on the 'Haiku', a Japanese poem of 3 lines with 5, then 7 then 5 syllables.

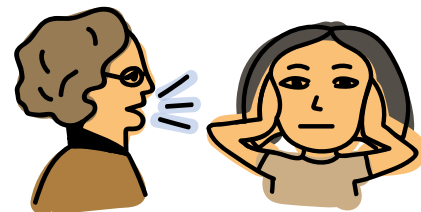
The rap can also be done as a body percussion piece.

Body percussion is using different parts of your body to make a rhythm.

The body clap beats go:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Clap Right hand (RH) + Left Hand (LH)	RH + chest	LH + chest	RH + thigh	LH + thigh	Right foot stomp	Left foot Stomp

Balancing rights



Human rights have to be balanced against each other. Our rights and freedoms must be used responsibly for the good of all. I might have a right or freedom to do something but if that clashes against your rights, then laws must be made to try to balance our competing interests fairly. Sometimes group rights clash against individual human rights.

One of the key values in a democracy is 'Freedom of thought and speech'. In a free country we should be able to think and say what we want. But speech can cause great harm, especially when aimed at a whole group. So the law has tried to balance free speech with 'hate speech' which may harm society.

The Racial Discrimination Act 1975 in section 18C says it's unlawful to do a public act which is likely to 'offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate' someone because of their race, colour or national or ethnic origin.

An example may be shouting out in public or posting on social media hateful words about a person's ethnic identity (cyber-racism).

The Act also says if the hurtful comments were made as 'fair public comment' or as part of artistic or scientific work then they may not break the law.

In 2017 the federal government tried to change section 18C to take out the words 'offend', 'insult' and 'humiliate' and replace with 'harass'. So the offence then would have been to 'harass or intimidate'.

The government said it would make the law clearer and protect free speech. Those opposing said it would weaken race discrimination laws.

The push for this change came after radio talk show host Andrew Bolt was found by the Federal Court to have breached the Racial Discrimination Act. He wrote a media article suggesting light-skinned people who identified as Aboriginal did so for personal gain. The Judge said the article was not written in 'good-faith' and contained wrong facts.

The proposed law to water down section 18C did not pass through parliament.

**What are some arguments for and against having race hate speech laws?
What is fair public comment in such cases? What role does the media play
in shaping people's opinions?**



Evolving Rights

Racism is deeply embedded in Australian history. The British in **1788 took Aboriginal homelands by force, without consent.** Aboriginal people put up some resistance but the newcomers had the power of the gun. After Federation in 1901 and up to the 1950s, 'protection' laws made by each state which moved Aboriginal people into reserves, controlled their movement and removed their children into homes to be raised 'white'. This was called 'assimilation' where the First Peoples were expected to be like 'white' Europeans and leave their own culture and language behind.

But Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures are strong. They have survived and have much to teach all peoples. Student 'Freedom rides' into regional NSW in 1965 highlighted deep discrimination and in 1967 a referendum gave the First Peoples more rights. A Native Title Act was passed in 1993 which began to recognise, in part, the first peoples rights to country.

Australia had a **'White Australia Policy' for immigrants which lasted up to the 1970's** and aimed to exclude people who were not white Europeans. This has changed and while some racism and discrimination still exists, Australia has evolved into a multicultural country which accepts people from all over the world who are free to practice their culture, as long as it doesn't break Australian law.

Women's rights have evolved. Australia was the first country to allow a woman to run for parliament, in 1902, though Aboriginal women didn't get the vote till 1962. Women had less opportunity than men for education and work but the movements towards equal pay and equal access to education have taken great steps forward. Much still needs to be done,

Male homosexuality was a crime in Australia until states began to change their laws from the mid 1970's. Tasmania was the last state to change its law (in 1997) to make gay sex no longer a crime. It is now widely accepted in Australia that people should be free to be whatever sexuality they wish. Sexuality is a private thing and should not be interfered with by the law. This is not so in some other countries.

Same-sex marriage was allowed in 2017 after the majority of people by a popular vote (a 'plebiscite') said the law should be changed.

Law and culture changes over time and evolves. Human rights laws created from the 1970's have made Australia a fairer place, but society is complex and problems are deep. There is still much inequality and disadvantage in this land we now call Australia.



How does culture and law change over time? Australia has been said to be the land of the 'fair go' where no one should be above anyone else – an equal, or egalitarian, society. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Rap a snapshot

Rap, tap, drum, hum, sing out a tune. Write a rap message, get on to it soon as you can, form an 'air band' plan a play, show and say, give a way we all can recall, what we learnt today.

Write / sketch your ideas?

