

Is it Fair?

Key words

- Justice - fairness, equality, honest actions, no discrimination, human rights are observed
- Injustice - unfairness, treating with discrimination, human rights are ignored
- Authority - the law or those who ensure it's kept, the moral power behind a person's words or actions
- Responsibility - duties you are expected to carry out, something which others depend on you for
- Prejudice - believing some people are inferior (not as good as them) without even knowing them.
- Discrimination - treating people differently (unfairly) because you are prejudiced against them.

Key facts

Racism

Hindu:

- Hinduism is opposed to racism.
- This is because most Hindus believe that every soul is part of the divine (Brahman) which means that everyone should have equal treatment.
- Although the caste system may appear racist, many Hindus see it as a way of treating people with respect because they have a particular place in society.

Christian:

- Christianity teaches that all forms of racism are wrong and that Christians should work to bring about racial harmony
- This is because Jesus treated people of different races equally.
- In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus showed that races who hated each other (as the Jews and Samaritans did) should love each other as neighbours.
- God created all races *'in the image of God' (Genesis, The Bible)*
- All Christian Churches have made statements recently condemning any form of racism
- All Christian Churches have members, ministers and priests of all races and colours
- It says in the Bible, *'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ' (Galatians, The Bible)*

Roles of Men and Women

Hindu:

- There are different attitudes to the roles of men and women in Hinduism.
- Traditional Hindus teach that women should be homemakers and bring up children while the men earn money and protect the family. They believe this because it is what the Law of Manu teaches.
- Other Hindus teach that men and women are equal because their souls are all part of the divine and so are equal.

Christian:

- There are 3 different attitudes to the roles of men and women in Christianity.
- 1: Some Christians teach that men should be the head of the family and women should not speak in church or be ministers/priests. This is because in the bible St Paul said that women shouldn't speak in church. They believe the Bible is the word of God and can't be altered (even if times have changed).
- 2: Other Christians teach that men and women should have equal roles in life. This is because Jesus treated women as his equals and are made
- 3: Catholic Christians say that men and women have equal roles and rights because all are equal in the eyes of God. But they teach that only men can become priests because Jesus was a man and so were his successors.

Wealth and Poverty:

Hindu

- Hindus believe that wealth is not owned, it is loaned by God.
- Personal wealth should be gained through lawful means - artha.
- If you are blessed with wealth, Hindus are expected to be generous and compassionate. Many Hindus support charity work, e.g. Hindu Aid. The Vedas say, *'Blessed are the hands that help the destitute'* (destitute = poor)

Christian:

- Christians are expected to help others in need just as Jesus did. Most Christians are involved with charity work.
- Christians believe that you cannot enter the kingdom of God (heaven) if you are only concerned with making money
- Christians are expected to tithe.

An example of someone who worked towards justice:

- Martin Luther King was a black American Christian who believed that God had created black and white people to be equal. His Christian beliefs inspired him to work towards equality by organising non-violent protests.
- He believed in the words of Jesus *'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Luke, The Bible)*
- He campaigned against black and white people having separate schools and restaurants and separate seats on buses.
- He organised freedom marches and gave speeches protesting against injustice.
- In April 1968, he was shot dead, but others carried on his work.
- MLK worked for black people because he believed that God created everyone to be equal and to live together peacefully.