



The Rights of the Individual

Task: Human Rights

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **human rights**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Most people must have known that human rights are a set of principles that center on fairness and equality. Human rights offer us the right to make choices about how we want to live and develop as a person. These rights protect us against those that would take it away from us.

First and foremost, what happens when we are robbed of our human rights? Many have suffered, being stripped from their human rights, and it is jaw-dropping to see how horrible the human race can be to their own, providing extreme abuse and cruelty, in unimaginable ways. Furthermore, when we see that human rights are lacking, we also see an increase in discrimination and barriers. For those that encounter this usually find that it has something to do with their ethnic background, religion, age and gender that is being held against them. Hence, the best possible solution for these people is to lay-low and allow somebody else to grace them with their protection if at all possible. Something else that seems implausible is that people have power over other people, to the extent that they can take the right to make choices away. When this happens, things like families being divided occur, as well as being told what to and when to do it, thereupon the existence of slavery. It has been reported by many individuals that they truly believe for this to be unbearable and beyond cruelty, separating families, and yet it has happened time after time. Then there is the fact there are limited resources to many, only being available to those that are willing to pay for it, such as medication, electricity and so on. Only by making resources available to the masses, will we be able to provide this right to everybody, not just the wealthy.

Fortunately human rights do reside in many places, allowing us to tear away from the monstrosities of the darker side of human nature, therefore making us much more civilized and empathetic societies. For instance, one outstanding human right is that all human beings are free and equal. Having given this to every human being that exists, will ensure that nobody can have real power over anybody else, since this eliminates this concept. This brings us to the next right: absolutely no torture or inhuman treatment. Strangely enough, some people are able to project that they have power over others, allowing them to do these horrible acts, thus this right is able to provide a safety net from those that would otherwise take advantage of their assumed power. In addition to that, we also have the right of being innocent until proven guilty, which has helped many innocent people suffering fates far worse than yet nameless others have had to endure. If society had understood the



importance to due process, it would be a different life to those many that were found unfairly guilty. Another right that we are able to enjoy is that of being able to marry and have a family. This is the most desired right by many people who have experienced a life of slavery. A slave does not have a right over what happens to their children or rather they can remain with their spouse or not. They are at the whim of those that claim to own them. By having this human right, we have the right to provide safety and a loving environment to our children and be with those that we have fallen in love with. Finally, yet just as importantly, our human rights allow us the right to an education. So many people, from so many countries and generations have been denied what we now consider to be one of our basic rights of having an education, therefore having two aspects to consider; an opportunity for everybody to be offered an equal education, which will provide them with the necessary skills they need to strive forward in this world, and also to have the opportunity to equal right in status and employment by acquiring a given education, henceforward becoming more knowledgeable.

Drawing things to a close, it is safe to say that by far there are more rights than just these few that have been mentioned here, but you can see with the comparison of the prior how someone's life can immensely improve with these basic human rights. All in all, it may seem that not only having values of tolerance and equality are a perfect blend within human rights, but also respect to oneself, as well as to others. By having human rights, it allows us to form the type of society we want to be a part of. I mean really, would you want to live in a world absent of human rights?

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, what happens when human rights are absent and human rights that we have.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, what happens when human rights are absent and human rights that we have. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• having tolerance, equality, respect allows for us to form the society we want
When human rights are absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• faced with abuse and cruelty• discrimination and barriers; having your ethnic background, religion, age and gender held against you• people having power over other people: takes the right of making choices away: dividing families and telling you what to do, when to do it; slavery• limited resources for many, only available to who can pay



Human rights that we have	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● all human beings are free and equal; eliminated power over anybody else● no torture and inhuman treatment; provides a safety net● innocent until proven guilty● the right to marry and have a family; safety and loving environment to children;● the right to an education; equal education and skills; equal right to status; employment; more knowledgeable
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Marks: +_ / +10