

Human Rights – Glossary

abuse noun [count or uncount]
cruel, violent, or unfair treatment:
human rights abuses

achieve verb [transitive]
to succeed in doing or having something:
We have achieved what we set out to do.

adopt verb [transitive]
to formally accept a proposal, usually by voting

aim noun [count] the thing that you hope to achieve by doing something:
The aim of this project is to help patients to be more independent.

basis noun [count]
the important ideas, facts, or actions from which something can develop:
Bernard's work forms the basis of all modern physiology.

commit verb [intransitive or transitive]
to agree to do something:
Take a little time to think before committing yourself.

conflict noun [count or uncount]
angry disagreement between people or groups:
a conflict between the press and the police

declaration noun [count or uncount]
an important or official statement about something:
a declaration of war

document noun [count]
a piece of paper or a set of papers containing official information:
A secret policy document was leaked to the newspapers.

establish verb [transitive]
to make something start to exist or start to happen:
A proper procedure for complaints should be established.

exist verb [intransitive]
to be present in a particular place, time, or situation:
The company officially ceased to exist at midnight on March 31st.

fair adjective
if a situation is fair, everyone is treated equally and in a reasonable way:
free and fair elections

follow verb [transitive]
to obey an order, or to do what someone has advised you to do:
She refused to follow our advice.

form verb [transitive]
to influence the development of something:
His political views were formed by years of service in the army.

fundamental adjective
relating to the basic nature or character of something:
a fundamental principle/difference

human rights noun [plural]
the rights that everyone should have in a society, including the right to express opinions or to have protection from harm

ignore verb [transitive]
to not consider something, or to not let it influence you:
We had ignored the fact that it was getting darker.

national adjective
relating to the whole of a nation:
House prices in London are 5% higher than the national average.

own verb [transitive]
to legally have something, especially because you have bought it:
Larry doesn't own a car.

principle noun [count]
a basic belief, theory, or rule that has a major influence on the way in which something is done:
It is a basic principle of English law that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

privacy noun [uncount]
the freedom to do things without other people watching you or knowing what you are doing

promote verb [transitive]
to support something, or to help something to develop:
a campaign to promote recycling

property noun [uncount]

the things that you own:

The police found a lot of stolen property in his house.

race noun [count or uncount]

a group of people who are similar because they have the same skin colour or other physical features, or because they speak the same language or have the same history or customs:

We do not discriminate on the basis of race or gender.

regardless adverb

without being affected or influenced by something:

There must be equality for all citizens, regardless of nationality.

respect noun [uncount]

respect for something is a feeling that something is important and deserves serious attention:

a healthy respect for the law

rule noun [count]

a statement that explains what you can or cannot do in a particular situation:

You should always follow these simple rules when using electrical equipment.

slavery noun [uncount]

the system of owning people as slaves

sovereignty noun [uncount]

the right of a country to rule itself

standard noun [count or uncount]

a level of quality or achievement, especially one that most people think is normal or acceptable:

The food was not up to standard.

state verb [transitive]

to express something in speech or writing, especially in a definite or formal way:

He stated that the project would be completed by April.

take something for granted phrase

to expect something always to happen or exist in a particular way and not think about any possible problems or difficulties:

Losing my job taught me never to take anything for granted.

torture noun [uncount]

extreme physical pain that someone is forced to suffer as a punishment or as a way of making them give information

tradition noun [count or uncount]

a very old custom, belief, or story:

Native American culture and traditions

treaty noun [count]

an official written agreement between countries:

a treaty on arms reduction

trial noun [count or uncount]

the process of examining a case in a court of law and deciding whether someone is guilty of a crime:

a murder/rape/fraud trial

universal adjective

involving or affecting everyone in the world, or all the members of a group or society:

universal human rights