

The Hewett Academy: Citizenship Knowledge

Organiser: British Value: Individual Liberties

Civil Liberties are rights that are guaranteed to people to protect us from an over powerful government.

Civil Liberties are normally found in countries that have a democracy, like the UK, USA or France.

Civil Liberties are normally not found in countries that are not democracies like North Korea, Burma or Saudi Arabia.

Good examples of Civil Liberties include:

- Freedom from arbitrary arrest
- Freedom from arbitrary detention
- The right to a fair trial
- Freedom of association
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom of movement
- Freedom of conscience
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech within the parameters of the law

Arbitrary means based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.

The Civil Liberties we enjoy today were developed throughout our History. Here are some of the key moments:

1215 Magna Carta - introduced right to trial by peers

1689 - Bill of Rights - limited the powers of Kings & Queens

1807 Slave Trade Act - abolished the Slave Trade in the British Empire after a campaign by William Wilberforce

1832 Great Reform Act - gave more people the vote

1867 - Second Great Reform Act - now meant roughly a third of men got the vote

1918 - Women over 30 were given the vote, along with men over 21.

1921 - Universal Suffrage - men and women over 21 given the vote

1950 - Britain signs the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

1964 - Capital Punishment abolished in the UK

1998 - Human Rights Act signed

2010 - Equalities Act, which guaranteed equality in law regardless of sex, race, religion or sexuality, passed.

The 1998 Human Rights Act made it a legal requirement for people in the UK to conform with the European Convention on Human Rights with the ability of UK Citizens to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights (in Strasbourg) if you think the government is infringing your rights.

The European Convention on Human Rights protects a number of key freedoms, including:

- Right to life
- Right to not be tortured
- Right to privacy
- Right to not be enslaved
- Right to marry and establish a family

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is made up of an introduction and then 30 “articles” which protect key freedoms. 48 countries around the world agreed to it in 1948 before it was signed in 1950.

Article 1 is that we are all born free and equal. Article 11 is that we are innocent until proven guilty.

Article 13 is the freedom to move; that we can all travel within our own country where we wish to.

Article 21 is the right to have democracy.

Article 30 is that nobody can take away your Human Rights.

Famous people who fought for Human Rights include Martin Luther King (American Civil Rights Leader), Emily Pankhurst (a British woman who fought for equal rights), Mahatma Gandhi (an Indian who fought for democracy), and Benazir Bhuto (a Pakistani campaigner who helped move the country from dictatorship to democracy).