


Unit 1

<p>Objectives</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the main articles in the UDHR• Describe the historical context for the UDHR• Analyze HR cases
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Before starting with this unit, read the following questions and share your ideas with the class.

- What do you know about Human Rights?
- Why do you think the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was created?
- What do you think its main purpose is?

1. Read the introductory paragraph about The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by 9 representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10th, 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.

2. As mentioned in the paragraph, 9 representatives from different countries drafted the UDHR. Find out who the drafting committee members were and their country of origin to complete the following table.

DRAFTING COMMITTEE MEMBER	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	

3. Think of 3 rights that in your opinion are essential for human beings.

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. Now read the summarized version of the 30 articles listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

1. All human beings are equal in dignity and rights.	2. Everyone has these rights regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, opinion, origin, property, birth or residency.
3. The right to life, liberty and personal security.	4. Freedom from slavery.
5. Freedom from torture.	6. The right to be treated equally by the law.
7. The right to equal protection by the law.	8. The right to effective solutions from a competent tribunal.
9. Freedom from arbitrary arrest.	10. The right to a fair public hearing by an independent tribunal.
11. The right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty at a public trial with all the guarantees necessary for your defense.	12. The right to privacy in home, family and correspondence.
13. Freedom of movement in your own country; the right to leave any country and return to your own country.	14. The right to political asylum.
15. The right to a nationality.	16. The right to marriage and a family; equal rights for men and women during and after marriage.
17. The right to own property.	18. Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.
19. Freedom of opinion and expression; freedom to ask for, receive and give information.	20. Freedom to form peaceful groups and assemblies.
21. The right to take part in and select the government of your country.	22. The right to social security and to the fulfilling of your economic, social and cultural rights.
23. The right to work to equal pay for equal work, and to form and join trade unions.	24. The right to reasonable hours of work and paid holidays.
25. The right to an adequate living standard for yourself and your family, including food, housing, clothing, medical care and social security.	26. The right to education.
27. The right to participate in cultural life; the right to be recognized as the author of your work.	28. The right to a social and international order that allows these freedoms to be realized.
29. Everyone has responsibilities to the community and to others as essential for a democratic society.	30. Repression in the name of these rights is unacceptable.

5. Check these vocabulary words taken from the UDHR articles

asylum	arbitrary	slavery	trade union
assembly	public hearing	rights	fulfilling

Use the concepts above to complete the following sentences.

- a) The Polish Embassy granted political _____ to the Belorussian athlete Kristina Tsimanouskaya.
- b) These women have been in prison for 18 months without a trial and a _____.
- c) The company's _____ is organizing a strike to improve the employees' working conditions.
- d) The State should be responsible for _____ the fundamental _____ of all citizens.
- e) During the dictatorship, people could not get together freely. Any kind of _____ was prohibited.
- f) _____ was abolished in the USA in 1865.
- g) _____ detention is a common practice in Afghanistan.

6. What are the Universal Human Rights?

- **Listening activity: watch the video about Universal Human Rights and then match the concepts with the definitions provided.**

1. To be entitled	a. to make a big effort to face difficulties or opposition
2. Freedom	b. in accordance with what is right, proper or just.
3. To be granted	c. loss, damage or disadvantage.
4. To be revoke	d. The state of being free.
5. Inalienable	e. including everyone

6. To enforce	f. an inclination toward judging something without full knowledge of it; prejudice.
7. To struggle	g. showing a lack of experience, wisdom or judgement.
8. Rightful	h. to have the right to benefits or privileges.
9. Treaty	i. that cannot be taken away or transferred.
10. Bias	j. to be given as a right, privilege or favor.
11. Naive	k. to ensure obedience to a law, rule or regulation.
12. Detriment	l. lacking power, unable to produce an effect.
13. Inclusiveness	m. to be annulled, taken back or canceled.
14. Powerless	n. an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation.

Answer the following questions based on the video.

- What is the basic idea of Human Rights?
- Who was in charge of drafting the UDHR and who presided over this?
- What are the three main characteristics of the UDHR?
- What is the main job of institutions that protect Human Rights?
- How many countries are part of the European Court of Human Rights?

Name 5 of them.

7. Sometimes people's human rights compete with the rights of others. Look at the cases below and decide which of the rights in the list are being affected.

Cases	Affected rights
<p>1. My wife is an alcoholic who spends thousands of pounds on alcohol. She has been in hospital several times because of liver damage. We feel that her alcoholism is an illness and that she therefore deserves free health treatment from the government.</p>	
<p>2. I don't want our eldest son to continue with his school studies. He's 9 years old and he has never enjoyed going to school. He has suffered from bullying and his academic performance is quite low. I honestly think he's much better off helping me run the family farm because he's going to own it soon anyway.</p>	
<p>3. My best friend was victim of sexual abuse when she was a teenager. Her uncle raped her when she was 15 years old and as a result she got pregnant. Luckily, in our country abortion is legal so she was able to keep on with her studies and life in a relatively normal way.</p>	
<p>4. Sarah worked as a finance consultant for many years until she found out her salary was a lot lower than her male colleagues who did the same job and had the same responsibilities. She decided to talk to her boss about this unfair situation and she was fired immediately.</p>	
<p>5. I wish that we lived in a world with no religions. In my opinion, religions have caused lots of wars and millions of deaths of innocent people and children. If religions didn't exist, we would have a warless and safe place to live.</p>	
<p>6. Nowadays, there is a major immigration issue in our country. I strongly believe that immigrants have caused a big problem in the borders as well as taken the jobs away from Chilean people. They should go back to their countries and learn to deal with whichever political situation their country is undergoing.</p>	
<p>7. My cousin Pedro and his boyfriend have been in a relationship for several years. They would like to get married and adopt a baby. Unfortunately, in our country homosexual marriage is not allowed and gay couples do not have many chances to adopt, even though they can provide a safe and stable home to children who had been abandoned.</p>	