

## Unit 1 Handout 1

### Before Reading

#### I. Match the terms with their correct definitions.

1. <b>Guideline (n)</b>	a. of or relating to courts of law, judgment, or judges _____
2. <b>Treaty (n)</b>	b. to make people obey a law, or to make a particular situation happen or be accepted _____
3. <b>Judiciary (adj)</b>	c. information intended to advise people on how something should be done or what something should be _____
4. <b>Enforce (v)</b>	d. the state of having little or no money, goods, or means of support _____
5. <b>Fairness (n)</b>	e. quality of treating people equally or in a way that is right or reasonable _____
6. <b>Poverty (n)</b>	f. to cause to act, feel, think, or behave in a certain way; induce; influence _____
7. <b>Lead (v)</b>	g. involved in something or affected by it _____
8. <b>Concerned (adj)</b>	h. written agreement between two or more countries, formally approved and signed by their leaders _____

### Reading Comprehension 1

*What is Law?* Laws are rules and **guidelines** established and enforced by the government and its entities. They vary from country to country, and there is a body of international laws applying to all countries that decide to ratify certain **treaties** or conventions. Laws establish what citizens, business, and governmental agencies are or aren't permitted to do. The **judiciary** system has the power to interpret them and to **enforce** them in all different situations.

*What is Justice?* Justice is a broad and somehow abstract concept based on equality of rights, **fairness**, kindness, dignity, moral and ethics. In a just world, we would not have discrimination, violence, abuses, **poverty**, slavery, and injustices in general. Therefore, all laws should be based on the idea of justice and all governments should defend enforcing national laws in a just and equal way. Furthermore, justice applies to all individuals without discrimination or limitations.

*What is Ethics?* Ethics is a system of moral principles which affect how people make decisions and how they consider **leading** their lives. Ethics is **concerned** with what is right or wrong for individuals and society.

## Unit 1 Handout 1

### After Reading




- II. Complete the following sentences with the concepts taken from the reading. Pay attention to the verb forms when necessary.

<i>guidelines</i>	<i>treaty</i>	<i>judiciary</i>	<i>to enforce</i>
<i>fairness</i>	<i>poverty</i>	<i>to lead</i>	<i>be concerned</i>

- a) Regardless the legal aspect, this case \_\_\_\_\_ with the defendant's absence of moral principles.
- b) According to the ECLAC, 10.7% of Chile's population still lives under the \_\_\_\_\_ line.
- c) Peru has been negotiating a commercial \_\_\_\_\_ with India to increase its agricultural exports.
- d) How difficult is \_\_\_\_\_ environmental laws in your country?
- e) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the project were very confusing, the team was not able to follow them.
- f) She \_\_\_\_\_ her law career in a very professional and successful way.
- g) Who appoints the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Supreme Court in Chile?
- h) Laws should be applied with \_\_\_\_\_ and equality to all the citizens, with no distinction nor limitations.

### Reading Comprehension 2

*An ethical system is a way of deciding what is right or wrong in a consistent, reasoned, impartial manner. Consider the three important elements in this definition.*

-  A decision is made about a **right or wrong action**.
-  The decision **is reasoned**.
-  The decision **is impartial**.

### Decision about a Right or Wrong Action

Many of your decisions have little effect on anyone except yourself. For example, your decision to buy blue jeans with wide pant legs instead of narrow ones has no ethical component. On the other hand, when you decide to discontinue medical support for an unconscious, terminally ill relative, it is an intensely ethical decision. **To involve ethics, a decision must affect you or others in some significant way.**

## Unit 1 Handout 1

### Reasoned Decisions

You often act in response to your emotions. For example, when you really like a movie, you might recommend watching it to friends with words such as, *"It really made me feel good."* Or when someone asks you why you made a particular comment, you respond, *"I don't really know, I just felt like doing it."* What you mean is that your feelings or emotions guided your actions. To make ethical decisions, you must consider **making your decisions based on reason, not on emotion**. People often reason about right and wrong by referring to a **time-tested authority**. The law is such an authority for some; religious texts are for others.

### Impartial Decisions

Impartiality is the idea that the same ethical standards are applied to everyone. If it is wrong for you to engage in a certain action, then in the same circumstance, it is also wrong for me. So, by definition, ethics does not value one person or group of persons more than any other. Each person is an individual and should expect to receive equal respect and consideration from others. Impartiality requires that, in making ethical decisions, you need **to balance your self-interests with the interests of others**. Sometimes it is difficult to recognize the interests of others. Your self-interests can make your perceptions unclear and thus affect your ability to be impartial.

### After Reading

#### III. Determine if the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. A decision without an ethical component has little effect on anyone except the person making the decision. \_\_\_\_\_
2. To make ethical decisions, you must consider making your decisions based on reason, not on emotion. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Impartiality is the idea that the same ethical standards are applied to everyone, regardless of their individual needs or circumstances. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Impartiality requires that, in making ethical decisions, you need to balance your self-interests with the interests of others. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Self-interests always lead to better decisions because they ensure that we prioritize our own needs above those of others. \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. Work in small groups or pairs. Reflect on 2 decisions you have made recently, that affected others in a significant way. Explain how those decisions were a) ethical, b) non-ethical.

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