

# Human Rights

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## ***‘Free and Equal in Dignity’***

GOOGLE AND FACEBOOK BREACHES / WOMEN’S RIGHTS / MALALA  
YOUSAFZAI / TRUTH AND ABOLITION / IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA

*Designed by Harvey Wilmot-Payne, Leonora Brittain and Lucy Lee*



***“All human beings are born free and equal  
in dignity and rights.”***

**On Monday the 10th of December 1948, the United Nations met in Paris and signed The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There was now, for the first time, a document that articulated the rights and freedoms to which every human being is entitled.  
It contains 30 points, for example:**

**Point 1 - All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights**

**Point 4 - No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms**

**Point 18 - Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

**Point 26 – Everyone has the right to an education**

**72 years later, this document is the most translated in the world (available in 360 languages). Yet despite this, it is far from universally followed. Today it is estimated there are 263 million children under 18 not in education and 40 million people living as slaves.**

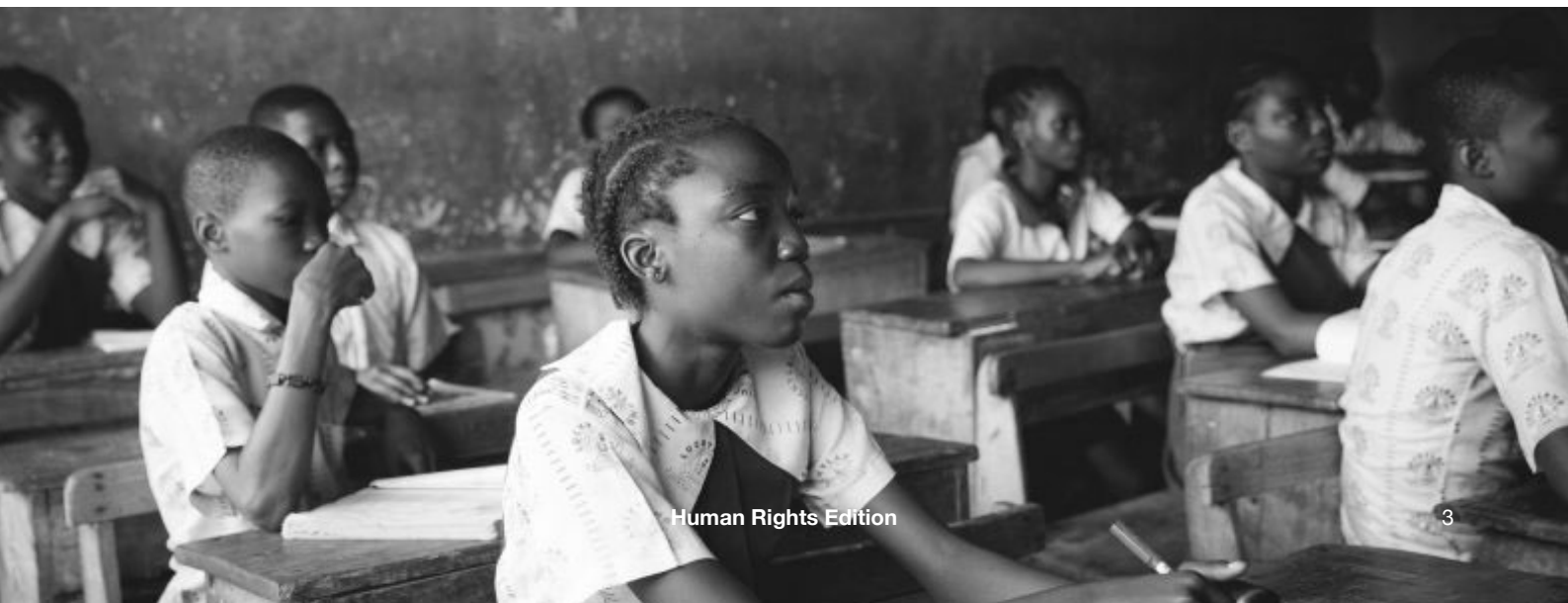
**Has our commitment to Human Rights faded? Will this vision for the world ever come true?**

**Within this edition, you will read examples of promise, progress and hope.**

**Miss Brownell**

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## The treatment of slaves during the Transatlantic Slave Trade

During the 18th and early 19th centuries, the demand for unpaid labour in plantations grew, making the Slave trade an incredibly profitable business. This formed the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Typically, the ship would leave ports in either Liverpool or London for Africa, carrying items such as: swords, knives, brandy, salt, textiles and iron bars. Upon arrival in Africa, they would collect slaves and sometimes trade items brought from Britain there as well.

Then, the slaves would be transported via ships to America and the West Indies, where they would then be sold at auctions. There, the shipowners would also collect items, such as: indigo (dye) sugar, tobacco and cotton, to take back to Britain to be sold at a high price.

In addition, some slaves were also brought back to Britain to be sold to upper-class people here, as servants, for example.

After capturing slaves in Africa, they were loaded onto a ship to endure between around a two-month journey to America. Onboard, the ships divided their hulls into holds with little headroom to enable them to crowd as many as possible on. Men would be secured by leg irons and handcuffs. The space was so cramped they were forced to crouch or lie down, due to limited movement. On some ships, captives spent a large portion of time pinned to floorboards which would wear skin on their elbows down to the bone. In addition, unhygienic conditions onboard led to disease being rife onboard; epidemics of fever and smallpox were widespread, as, due to the lack of space, it was much easier to spread. Subsequently, this led to an incredibly high mortality rate, on average, up to a third of captives. In fact, any trip where less than around a quarter of slaves died was actually deemed successful. However, if slaves were to die, their bodies would be thrown overboard. One other factor that led to many deaths was starvation. The best slave ships fed the slaves beans, corn, rice, and palm oil. However, the vast majority of the time, slaves were not always fed every day. In addition, they were threatened by the crew onboard as well. Quite often on slave ships, there were loaded cannons at mealtimes with crew stood by with matches and pistols throughout the ship, intended to harm captives.

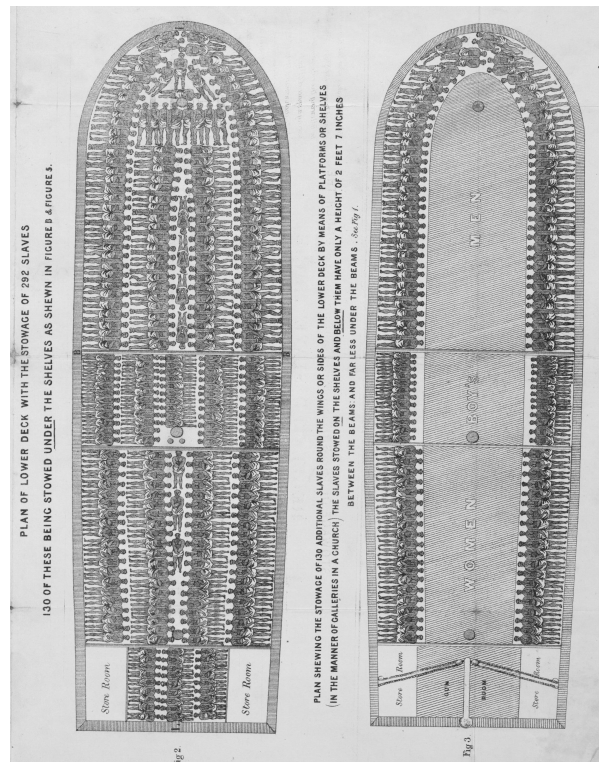
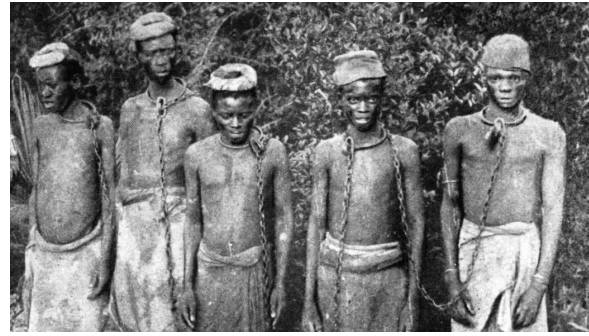


However, once they arrived in America & the West Indies, the conditions weren't much better for slaves. Upon arrival, they would be taken off the ship and placed into a pen awaiting auction. Before the auction, slaves would be washed and their skin covered with grease or tar; this was to make them look healthier. They were also branded with a hot iron to make them easily identified as slaves. At auctions, they were stood on a raised platform so the buyers could see the slaves. Willing buyers were able to inspect the slaves; they were forced to endure being poked, prodded and being forced to open their mouths. The prices would vary based on the slave. For example, fit, young slaves would be a higher price and lower prices for older, very young or sickly. Due to this, many families were split up if some members were fitter than others: they were more wanted by richer slave owners, whereas, weaker ones would perhaps end up with poorer slave owners or, alternatively, be auctioned continuously if left unsold at auction.

However, once auctioned, the treatment of slaves didn't get any better. Typically, slaves would arrive for work at dawn and only stopped for food at breakfast and lunchtime and they worked until nightfall. During harvest time, slaves were expected to work in shifts of up to 18 hours a day. As slaves had no rights, masters had complete control over their slaves; many masters treated slaves more like property. Plantation owners were free to act as dictators. Slaves who disobeyed or resisted even in small ways were violently punished: Until 1723, it was not a crime to kill a slave in Antigua. The punishments handed out to slaves varied in severity. Captured runaways could be hanged or permanently injured. Slaves were often whipped for any wrongdoing – the number of lashes that they received depended upon the seriousness of their 'crime'.

Slavery is against The Human Rights act. There should be no slavery today, yet sadly it still exists.

By Lara Gray (Y8)



# Behind the Veil: Women's Rights in Sri Lanka

I am proud of my heritage. Whenever someone asks me where my name is from and I say 'Sri Lanka', they almost always smile and relate 'beautiful holidays', 'amazing people' and 'such a friendly, welcoming environment'. I can see reflected in their eyes scorching sunsets, juxtaposed with the silky blue ribbon of the day and exotic wildlife found in the most surprising of situations. It really does boast the very best that nature has to offer. Only stunning views and natural landscapes would be superficial; however, not enough to fill visitors there with the warm glow they often describe. Sri Lanka's people are friendly. Not just in a cautiously polite British sort of way but waving and smiling at one another and newcomers. 'In Sri Lanka, you are welcome'. But beneath the smiles and waves, which are genuine, are hidden twenty years of civil war, Muslim prejudices, domestic abuse and anti-minority pogroms. The group whose rights are most constantly violated though, are Sri Lanka's women. And this still goes on today.

At first glance, it may seem as though Sri Lanka was ahead of its Asian counterparts; as 'early' as 1931, Sri Lankan women were given the right to vote on the same basis as men; the first Asian country to have universal adult suffrage. It was, however, granted to them by the British, one of whose colonies they were until 1948.

Sri Lanka signed the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' in 1991, which set a minimum age of marriage at 18, and the 'Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women' in 1981, which required the free and full consent of both parties to a marriage. Yet still to this day, almost 30 years later, 12% of all girls are married and forced into a union under the age of 18. And that's only the number which is officially recorded. The main problem? A decades-old community law that states that much younger girls of the Muslim community can get married as long as they have the consent of their parents. The Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act allows Muslim community leaders, essentially men, to decide the age of marriage.

Therefore, the actual minimum age for marriage is zero, so long as it has been arranged by the head of the family.

This is just one of many experiences lived through every day by young girls in Sri Lanka. Shafa (an alias for confidentiality) is 19, but at just 15 years old she was forced to get married. She fell in love with a boy while at school and her parents didn't like it. So, she was sent to her Uncle's house to study there. While she was there, a visitor told her uncle that he wished to marry her. And as per the custom, her uncle and aunt arranged the marriage.



Shafa, who wanted first to finish her education and then have the freedom to marry the boy she loved, was beaten each time she protested against her planned future. Her uncle and aunt, using emotional blackmail, even threatened to kill themselves if she did not listen to them. In desperation, she inflicted injuries on her arms and took several pills in a suicide attempt. In the hospital, her family bribed the doctors to let her be taken to a private hospital and then forced her to marry the man. So Shafa had no choice but to stay with her new husband as there was no escape.

However, he was suspicious of her every move and became convinced she was continuing her relationship with her boyfriend. He beat her even when she told him that she was pregnant. In fact, he threw her to the floor and thanks to his violence, and she lost her baby.

That was when he then told her that he'd only wanted her for the one night, he'd already had her and didn't need her anymore. Shafa, determined not to give up, complained to the police, who wouldn't take her seriously because she was the wife and therefore automatically in the wrong.

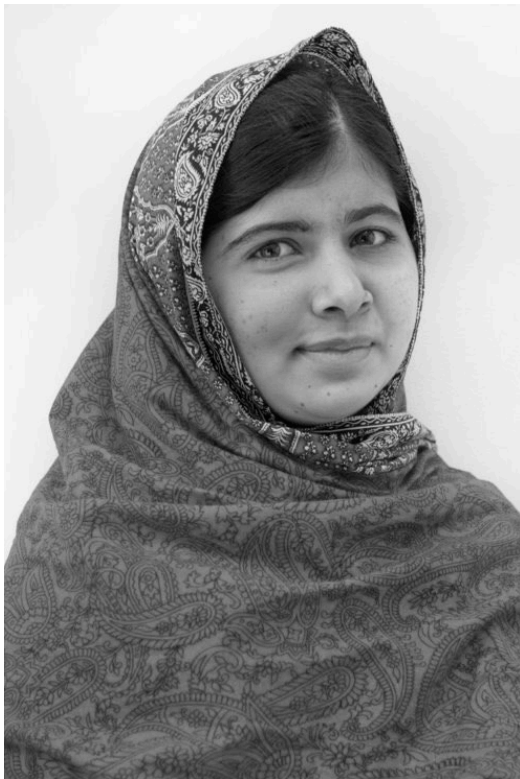


Her husband agreed to continue the marriage, but she refused. Just a few days later, she began receiving phone calls and texts from strangers, asking how much she charged to sleep with them. Her husband had published her photograph and telephone number on social media in revenge; to show her who was in charge. Her father refused to get involved and help his daughter through the abuse she was enduring, but her mother did take her to a social welfare centre so she could get psychological and legal help with her traumatic and scarring marriage. The centre had to be visited in secret though because needing psychological help in Sri Lanka is strictly taboo. Shafa still bears the physical and mental scars.

Shafa's story isn't by any means the only story waiting to be heard; the number of childhood marriages rose from 14% to 22% in 2017 due to increased conservatism, something that isn't likely to change with the election of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as president in 2019. But we can give these girls a voice to speak out with and our ears to listen with.

By Grace Weerakoon (Y12)

# Malala Yousafzai: the girl who stood up for the right to go to school



Malala Yousafzai was born on 12th July 1997 in Swat Valley Pakistan, where from a very young age, she was exposed to the inequality between women and men. In 2007, the Taliban [a politic group who enforce strict Islamic laws and support terrorism] took over Swat Valley. In 2008, BBC Urdu reached out and asked if anyone would write about their life under the Taliban's control; it was extremely risky, and most people said no but Malala's father knew she would be up for the challenge. A few years later, a law was put out that proclaimed girls could not go to school any more. Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, who owned the school she went to, was an advocate for educational rights and decided to still teach Malala and the rest of the girls at school.

On 9th October 2012, almost 5 years since the Taliban took control of Pakistan, Malala was shot. The Taliban jumped on her bus when she was coming home from school and asked who Malala was; everyone turned their head towards her, and the Taliban took their shot. Malala had previously spoken out publicly against the Taliban's oppression of girls and even starred in a documentary all about education. This caused the Taliban to feel threatened, and they decided the rightful punishment to silence her was to kill her. Malala luckily did not die; however, she was seriously injured and was put in a coma. She was moved to many hospitals, one of which was in Birmingham, where she had life-changing surgery.

In 2014, Malala was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for all her hard work and determination. To help her campaign for educational rights, the Malala fund was founded in 2013. The fund was formed to eventually guarantee 12 years of free, safe and quality education for every girl in the world. Unfortunately, Malala was not able to return her homeland until 2018, almost 5 years since she was shot. This was because the Taliban still controlled Pakistan, and it was feared they would try once more to silence her. Whilst living in England, Malala carried on fighting for women and education, travelling all over the world to meet strong-willed young women just like her.

By Maisie Lee (Y8)





# Sojourner Truth and Abolition

Sojourner Truth was a woman who contributed to the abolition of Slavery and was a Women's Rights Activist. She was a fantastic speaker and her words helped change the course of History and her actions helped move us towards greater equality.

**As a result of her hard work and devotion to the abolitionist movement, she has made a big difference to many people's lives whether it be supporting the right to be freed from slavery, inspiring them to attempt an escape, or simply helping them to form opinions on the matter of slavery and to raise awareness.**

**Here are some of the key facts about her life...**

- 1) She was born into a Dutch-speaking household around 1797 but was sadly sold away from her family at the age of nine. Two decades later, she escaped slavery and her master's property.
- 2) She sued the man who owned her son Peter (as a slave) and succeeded in getting him free
- 3) In her later life, 1843, when she was in her mid-forties, she had a spiritual awakening and as a result changed her name to Sojourner Truth.
- 4) She delivered anti-slavery sermons and sold her book, 'Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave'. This book is now used by scholars worldwide and is known as being "culturally important."
- 5) Her speech, 'Ain't I A Woman?' given in 1851 was published in 'The Anti-Slavery Bugle' and is still read and used to this day.
- 6) She helped the Abolitionist Movement by devoting her life to the abolitionist cause and helped to recruit black troops for The Union Army. She toured with abolitionist George Thompson, speaking to large crowds on slavery and human rights.

By Lily Myers (Y9)

## Google and Facebook breaches of Human Rights

**A**t some point each day, most of us will use Google or Facebook. Yet, many of us take our human rights for granted, assuming rightly or wrongly that our personal information isn't collected or analysed by the tech giants. Well, thanks to a report led by Amnesty International, it seems our assumptions are in fact

incorrect.

Amnesty International led a report in 2019, stating that the biggest threat to our human rights is indeed 2 of the most popular websites in existence- Google and Facebook.

More than 90% of global search engine use is from Google, giving them (and Facebook) access to some of our most private details, for example where we travelled on a particular day, our shopping habits and even our medical conditions. These two companies take, analyse and utilise this information to predict our daily internet habits, in order to increase general advertising revenue.



By using this algorithm, a severe threat has been posed on our basic rights of freedom of thought, expression and overall privacy. Not only are they finding out private and important details of our everyday life, but we have no guarantees as the general public whether or not this information can be passed on to certain websites with more serious or illegal ideas in mind. Uncertainty lies in whether governments all around the globe will take action to defend their citizens against breaches of human rights. Confrontational approaches have been taken against these two tech giants, and fines have been imposed for breaching general data protection regulation but can fines really have a large enough impact to thoroughly discourage Google and Facebook using such invasive algorithms again?

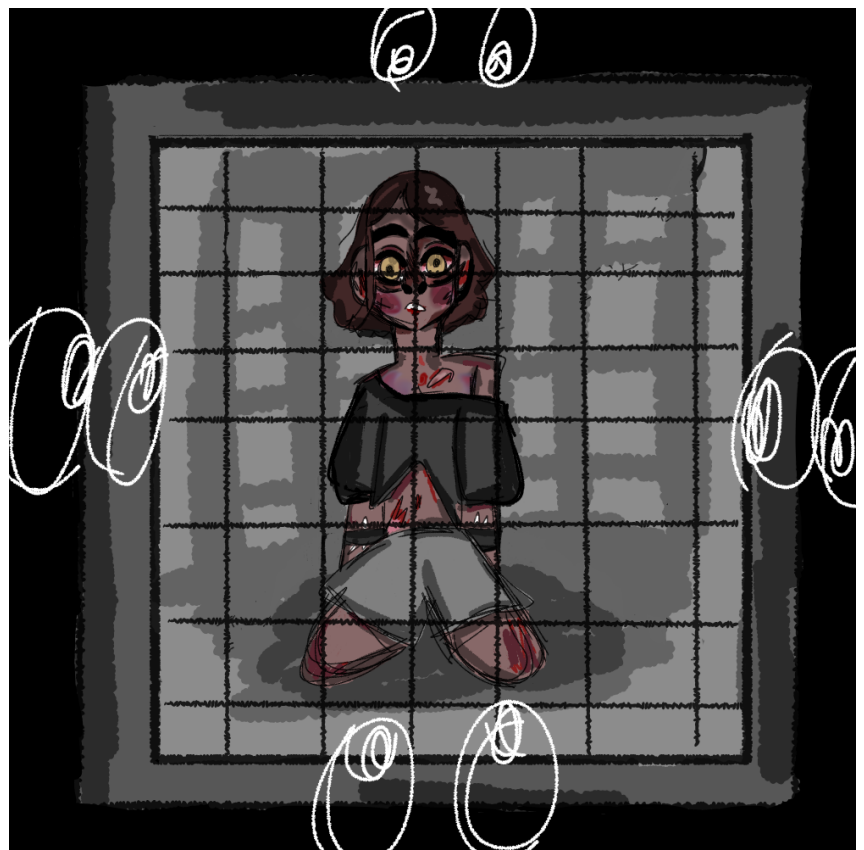
**By Melissa Eddon (Y10)**





**Biro Drawing  
By Lilith  
Cooper (Y9)**

**Graphic  
Drawing By  
Abigail  
Hitchener (Y7)**





# Immigrants In America

Each year more than 1 million immigrants try to enter the USA, with the hope of being able to begin a new life there and have the opportunity to live the 'American Dream'. Many immigrants hope to find a better job or better education, or escape countries troubled by violence or poor living conditions, or to set up better foundations for themselves or their families. For many of these immigrants, these dreams are shattered when they are met by the appalling conditions of the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) holding cells.

These holding cells, located usually at the US border with Mexico, are often freezing cold. They are referred to by migrants and CBP officials as *hieleras*, translating to freezers, demonstrating how cold they actually are. Cells are often crowded, and people may end up with only room to stand for many days. They are not provided with adequate sleeping arrangements as these centres are not intended for overnight stays, although many migrants end up there for weeks. Often they are provided with only a foil blanket, similar to those used by runners, to protect them from the bitterly cold temperatures and sleeping directly on hard concrete floors and under bright lights (see image above).

It is often reported that those in the cells have no access to basic sanitary facilities such as being able to shower or having access to soap tooth brushes or toothpaste. These things are not luxury items but basic necessities to remain healthy. Women do not always have access to menstrual hygiene products either, which is again a necessity. If migrants have these things in their luggage, they are not allowed to retrieve them whilst in these holding cells. A lack of these items is humiliating and dehumanising. The holding centres are also therefore prone to outbreaks of diseases like flu and chickenpox due to the overcrowding and poor hygiene. Food provision and hygiene in these centres is also poor. Food is often disgusting or even inedible, and babies are made to drink from uncleaned bottles.

Perhaps the worst of all this though is the appalling treatment of children. Children are often separated from their parents and made to live in these already difficult with conditions alone. Many children also arrive having faced the long journey alone, hoping to reunite with relatives in the US, and end up in these facilities and often even end up looking after other children themselves.



**T**hese tough conditions can lead to death, which is sadly not unheard of in these conditions, in the first five months of 2019, 7 children died in CBP custody along with many more adults, and those who do not even make it over the border. Time magazine reported the experience of Yazmin Juárez, an asylum seeker from Guatemala whose daughter Mariee died after being held in an ICE detention centre. When her daughter became severely unwell the detentions medical facility refused to investigate it further. After about ten days, mother and daughter were released from the ICE detention centre, and sought further medical care. Mariee was hospitalised for six weeks, during which time she was diagnosed with a viral respiratory infection and placed on a ventilator. “All of the hard work of these doctors came too late,” Juarez said. “Mariee died on what is Mother’s Day in my country. When I walked out of the hospital that day, all I had with me was a piece of paper with Mariee’s handprints in pink paint.”

In a video produced by the New York Times of the testimonies given by children detained in CBP facilities children say: ‘I’m so hungry that I have woken up in the middle of the night with hunger, I’m too scared to ask the officials for any more food’; ‘there is no soap or water to wash our hands after we use the bathroom, we have to ask for toilet paper if we want any’; ‘my sister and I hold a blanket up so no one can see us go to the bathroom’; ‘they separated me from my Dad, I have not seen my father again’; and ‘I was wet when I got here and was placed in a cage without being given dry clothes’. Videos like this are very powerful and show how truly awful it is for children in these facilities and give us a really good insight into how their lives are.

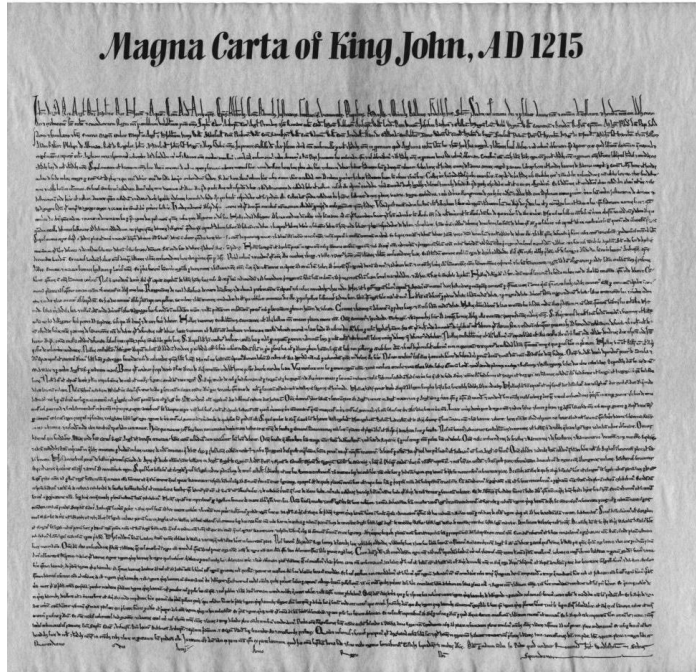
These are real people who do not deserve to be treated in this inhumane way. The time spent in these facilities can be very harmful to people especially children who have just made a long journey with the hope of having a new start in the US, damaging both their physical and mental health. One of the most significant ways that this can be changed is through awareness, and many people are not aware of these people being treated this way, and the more people know the more pressure there is for systems to change. Charities like the Women’s refugee committee also work to improve conditions and suggest that alternatives to detention which are proven to be cost-effective, efficient, and humane ways to process asylum seekers should be utilised. Things are also looking more positive for immigrants under Biden’s presidency. He claims he will take urgent action to undo Trump’s damage and reclaim America’s values, modernise America’s immigration system, welcome immigrants in their communities, reassert America’s commitment to asylum-seekers and refugees, tackle the root causes of irregular migration and implement effective border screening.

**By Sophie Barlow (Y11)**



# The Magna Carta and its Significance today

Meaning Great Charter, the Magna Carta was first introduced- and signed- in 1215. At the time, King John ruled England and is said to be one of the worst Kings in history. He starved, imprisoned and murdered people, some of which were his own family. He issued huge taxes on the Barons, and when they didn't pay, they'd be punished. The Barons rebelled and eventually took over London, forcing King John to sign the document. The Magna Carta limited the power of the King, made sure taxes couldn't be raised without the Baron's permission and protected church rights among other things. It was a significant step forward in protecting human rights, though at this point, it only really benefited the upper class.



Over the years, it inspired others to fight for freedom and their rights. It inspired both men and women the right for their votes, and many areas of America based their laws on Magna Carta. When King George said colonists in America didn't have the same rights as Englishmen under the Magna Carta, the American's were spurred on even more to have their own version and protect themselves.



The Magna Carta featured numerous human rights including some that still have significance today. One of these was introducing trial by jury, which established the principal rule of law. We should be thankful for the Magna Carta as it formed the basics of the freedoms we know and value today.

By Chloe Gregory (Y8)

# The Holocaust

Human Rights were a big issue during the holocaust in both the concentration camps and the Ghettos. There were many human rights that the Jews were denied but the main ones were: number 4 we have the right to be free from slavery; number 5, we have a right to be free from torturing or degrading treatment; number 7 we have a right to be treated equally under the law. When World War One ended, the UN decided they would make a set of guidelines to try and stop people from having their basic human rights taken away, this document was called The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR was passed on the 10th of December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France.

The holocaust was a mass genocide of European Jews during World War Two. Most people know of the atrocities committed at Auschwitz, this was a one of the biggest concentration camps and it was based in Poland. Hitler's aim was to get rid of the Jews because Hitler believed that they were to blame for everything and that they should be exterminated. The inmates of the concentration camps were made to do hard labor and were tortured.

Another place in which Jews were put before they went to the Concentration camps were Ghettos. Ghettos were small towns or villages that had walls or fences put up around them to keep Jews in and other people out. The Ghettos didn't have very good living conditions and many people fell ill from either disease or fatigue. Not many people that weren't Jews ever entered the Ghettos, not even guards. The guards were usually Jews that were given special privileges.

**Learning about the Holocaust hopefully means we never allow it to be repeated again or humans rights to be violated in such a horrendous way.**

By Eadie Charlton Y9







This painting was inspired by a photo album that was owned by the agitator to the commander at Auschwitz, Karl Hocker, containing photographs of guards laughing and enjoying themselves a stone's throw away from Auschwitz concentration camp in the Summer of 1944. When we think of the holocaust, one may think of the Jewish peoples but we fail to recognise the severity of the suffering of each individual person. We simply can't comprehend the scale of the Holocaust as even if we're told by survivors, or we watch the "Nazi Concentration and Prison Camps" documentary shown at the Nuremberg Trials in 1946, where the death was so immense bodies had to be shoved and discarded by heavy machinery, we still can't comprehend the devastation. Although the Holocaust is still incredibly relevant today with the rise of hate groups in the US or China's suppression and internment of their Muslim minority, the struggle of the individual will become less and less relevant with time, only to be grouped in with the thousands of atrocities seen through out all of human history.



In my painting the figure on the left is the viewer. This figure stands and watches evil flourish, emphasised with the deep shadow to act as a foreshadow. It could also be that the figure has realised it's too late to resist whereas it could have been before, understanding the true weight of their actions. I've also set a secular tone for the interpretation as the throne in the top centre in the clouds highlights the absence of a god.

**My image represents the fact that we're all capable of evil, it just has to be unleashed under the pretext of circumstance, seen with Germany's loss in the First World War and the Great Depression leaving the German peoples vulnerable to a charismatic man who suggested a solution through blaming scapegoats. This is how a whole nation could participate in the Holocaust.**

Inspired by this article, a painting by Oliver Cornelius (Y13)



**It is easy to associate the term genocide with the past, particularly with the murders at the hands of the Nazi regime, but with the news currently consumed with Covid-19, it is easy to forget that genocide is occurring to this day.**

The Rohingya are a majoritively muslim ethnic minority living in Myanmar, a mostly Buddhist country. They speak Rohingya, a language distinct from the others spoken throughout the country and live mainly in the Rakhine state on the western coast. Without provocation, the Myanmar government denied the Rohingya citizenship, to the extent where they were excluded from the 2014 census, a dehumanising act which now classed the Rohingya as illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. In 2017, the persecution accelerated. The Arsa (Rohingya salvation army) are a Rohingya army who fight for the right for the Rohingya to be recognised as an ethnic group. In August 2017, they attacked police posts in Rakhine state, killing 12 people in their biggest attack so far. The military responded violently, massacring innocent Rohingya and raping women and young girls. This resulted in an exodus of thousands of Rohingya who fled their homes to escape the brutality from the troops and buddhist mobs who also burned down villages while attacking and killing civilians. At least 288 villages were partially or totally destroyed by fire in northern Rakhine state after August 2017, according to analysis of satellite imagery by Human Rights Watch. The satellite imagery shows many areas where Rohingya villages burned to rubble, while nearby ethnic Rakhine villages were left intact. Over 100,000 fled to Bangladesh, leaving many people in overcrowded refugee camps. To push the hatred towards the Rohingya minority further, the Myanmar army released propaganda, including a misrepresented image of an alleged member of the muslim minority killing a buddhist. This image was taken out of context, and this was of course not the full picture but was used to fuel their wholly unjustified slaughter. Two Myanmar soldiers shared with he media that they were conditioned and instructed to “kill all you see, whether children or adults” in their attempt to eradicate the ethnic minority in their genocidal campaign. The soldiers told that they “wiped out 30 villages, dumping bodies in mass graves” and said they obliged when instructed to murder 30 Rohingya muslims. Since 2017, it is estimated 24,000 muslims had been murdered at the hands of these soldiers.

This crisis is a grave abuse of a multitude of human rights. The Rohingya muslims have been denied the right to life, the right to freedom of torture and inhumane degradation and the right to freedom of religion. These violations unfortunately sit among many others and reveal the lack of progression the world as a whole has made since previous persecution.

By Emily Allsup (Y13)

# The Rohingya Crisis



Satellite images show destroyed Rohingya village



Source: Human Rights Watch, Satellite image 21 September 2017





# Fighting for What is Ours

**This protest took place on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1910,**  
300 courageous women tried to enter the House of Commons and demanded for their rights  
Unfortunately, this just broke out into unnecessary fights,  
Women were tired of this world being ruled by men  
**This protest took place on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1910**

**This protest took place on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1969,**  
Police stormed Stonewall Inn, and kicked out everyone who was gay  
They retaliated and set the place on fire before the police could get away,  
The police completely crossed the line  
**This protest took place on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1969**

**This protest took place on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2020,**  
Everyone was enraged after George Floyd's unjust death  
When a policeman knelt on his neck so he could not catch a breath,  
This was the tipping point as black people had already put up with plenty  
**This protest took place on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**

By Rebecca Hitchenor (Y9)