

Worksheet 1.18a: Why are checks and balances needed?

Human rights include the right to marry, to have an education, to vote and to have a nationality. A key part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) is that everyone has a duty to support each other's human rights.

What does this mean in everyday life? Read about Bhavna and Noah in the table and then, in small groups, discuss the questions below.

	Bhavna (aged 18) wants to...	Noah (aged 18) wants to...
1.	marry her girlfriend (her mum's pressuring her to marry a man instead).	marry his girlfriend (his mum's pressuring him to marry a family friend instead).
2.	go travelling in Australia for a year.	go to Italy to watch his favourite football team (Juventus) play.
3.	stop being a Hindu and become a Buddhist instead.	stop being an atheist and become a Muslim instead.
4.	work as a pilot (she has epileptic fits daily).	work as a pilot (he has dyslexia).
5.	run a school assembly encouraging other gay pupils to bully and attack straight pupils.	run a school assembly encouraging pupils to understand why he views Islam as a peaceful religion.
6.	tell everyone (via social media) that Noah's brother just won the lottery jackpot.	help his brother to stop people finding out that he just won the lottery jackpot.

1. What are the similarities between Bhavna's and Noah's marriage situations?
2. Freedom of movement is one of our human rights. Why does the government sometimes stop citizens from leaving the country?
3. Should children under 16 have the right to decide about their own religion/beliefs? Explain your answer.
4. Should all citizens be able to work in whichever job they choose? Justify your answer.
5. Should Noah's and/or Bhavna's assemblies be allowed? Explain your answer.
6. Why might Noah's brother want privacy about his lottery win?