

Worksheet 1.18b: Why are people's rights and freedoms sometimes limited?

The government sometimes has to limit people's rights or freedoms to protect other people, for a variety of reason, such as:

A. to prevent extremism and terrorism

B. to protect other people's reputation, health, morals, family and so on

C. to prioritise national security (trying to avoid a crisis)

D. to prevent crime and disorder

E. to keep the public safe

F. to make the country's finances as healthy as possible

G. to stop confidential information from being leaked

H. to make sure the justice system runs smoothly and is fair.

Which of the reasons above is relevant to Zak, Chrissi and Sahil? Write the letters on the line below each.

1. One of Zak's human rights is to freedom of speech. He wants to go on national radio to advertise an attack he's arranging on a local vicar. Zak thinks that all vicars 'deserve to be hurt' because he thinks Christianity causes wars. The radio station won't allow him on air.

2. Chrissi doesn't agree with the UK government's support of gay marriage. Her teacher suspects that Chrissi has joined a very serious and experienced group of terrorists. These terrorists are so opposed to gay marriage that they're threatening to bomb the Houses of Parliament. Chrissi's teacher reports her concerns to the police. Chrissi is arrested and held without charge for nine days.

3. Sahil knows that one of his human rights is the right to privacy. For this reason, he doesn't think it's any of the judge's business that he sells guns to local students. Sahil thinks the judge is invading his privacy by asking for information about the guns and about which schools he sold them at.
