

Learning intentions**I am learning:**

- ✓ to discuss and decide on a human being's top ten needs
- ✓ to explain the term 'human rights'.

Amnesty International

A human rights organisation founded in 1961 by Peter Benenson. It campaigns internationally against the detention of prisoners of conscience, for the fair trial of political prisoners and to abolish the death penalty and torture of prisoners.

**Activity 1**
What do I need?

- a) Individually:
Copy the spider diagram but use a photograph of yourself as a baby, or write Catherine's name in the centre. Write down your answers to the questions around the outside in a different colour.
- b) In groups:
Compare your answers and agree a list of the top ten things Catherine will need as she goes through her life. Record this list of 'Top Ten Needs' in your journal.

What will Catherine need to **survive** and be safe?

What will Catherine need to **learn** about the world around her?



What will Catherine need to help her **develop** her talents?

What will Catherine need to help her **make** decisions as she grows up?

What will Catherine need to give her the same **chances** as everyone else, as she grows up?

In the last topic you learned that local and global citizenship is based on four themes. The next six topics will help you to begin exploring the themes of human rights and social responsibility.

Amnesty International has said that:

'Human beings have human rights whatever label they are given and wherever they are.'

They are not the only people who talk about human rights.

Take the rock singer Bono, for example. Using U2's worldwide fame he is able to draw attention to many human rights issues. Over the last two decades, Bono has visited the starving in Ethiopia, spoken out about the need for peace in Northern Ireland and has campaigned for debt relief. In April 2005 at a concert in San Diego he said that he wanted human rights to be a reality in everyone's lives.

But when we hear people talking about human rights, we need to ask ourselves: *what do we really mean by human rights?*

Look at the diagram below. Catherine has just been born into the world. Her life has just begun. She is totally dependent on the people around her to look after her but she will grow up to be a young person just like you and will become an adult. But what will she need to help her grow up and develop?

We all need basic things to help us survive, like food and shelter. However, there is more to being human than just surviving. We need to be able to develop and learn about the world around us. We also need to be protected from harm and given a chance to have a say or participate in our society. So if we need all these things then surely it is only right that we have them.

All of these basic needs that we should have are what we mean when we talk about human rights.



Human rights are basic needs that everyone should have.

**Activity 2** Sort out your rights!

- a) In your groups:
Look at your 'Top Ten Needs' list:
- Circle anything in the list that you need to **survive**.
 - Underline anything in the list that you need to **develop**.
 - Highlight anything in the list that you need for **protection**.
 - Put a box around anything in the list that you need for **participation**.
- b) Individually:
Write down examples of human rights under the four headings in part a) above.

Human rights are what every human being needs to help them develop to their full potential.

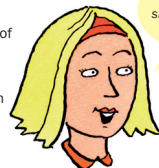
**Activity 3** Personal journal

Human rights experts have defined human rights in a number of different ways. Look at the definitions on the right.

Individually:

Choose a definition that you think best explains what we mean by human rights from the examples on the right, or use them to write your own definition, and record this in your journal. Explain why you have chosen this definition.

Human rights are entitlements – you should have them simply because you're human.



Human rights are the universal rights which every human being should be entitled to enjoy and have protected.

