

## Human Rights in Today's Society

Statistics show that fifty-eight percent of countries conduct unfair trials, seventy-five percent of governments restrict freely expressing yourself, and eighty-two percent of nations have tortured people living there ("Amnesty International", 2015). These facts are violations of the thirty human rights, and all of which are listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights are standards that people are born with, and they give us protection, political vision, and morals. Despite the goal of these standards most humans do end up experiencing violations of these rights. Colonialism is a violation of human rights, and like Nelson Mandela you can be an anti-colonialist too.

People often question what colonialism is and its existence in today's society. Colonialism is a government policy that regulates or alters a country, territory, or people. It almost always leads to negative long term effects. Victims of colonialism often suffer from emotional, psychological, and physical violence from their colonizers. This is done through giving them an inferior complex such as treating them like slaves, educating them how to perform manual labor, language substitution which aids the destruction of their culture, torturing them which demonstrates the power of colonizers and finalizes their inferior mentality. By observing the violent colonizers, colonized people tend to result to violence among themselves to gain power. Colonialism still exists in our society mostly because it isn't as well known as other human rights violations, meaning it will not get as much support. Right now, colonialism might not be as big of a problem, but it regularly leads to other disparities, such as racism or sexism. Therefore, it could easily become a complication in the future, since they are all violations of Human Rights

Article #2, *Freedom from Discrimination*. Hundreds, thousands, and even millions of people in the world are being mistreated due to colonialism, but there are still people out there battling against it.

As a victim of the effects of colonialism, Nelson Mandela grew up in a world where the indigenous people of South Africa were constantly being racially discriminated by the European colonizers. He wanted to change that, so he joined the battle to stop it. His efforts saved an entire nation from colonialism, but to make that great of a difference it took the entire ninety-five years of his life. But helping others around him did come with a price, including spending twenty-seven years in prison. Before he was sent to prison he was involved in an anti-apartheid movement, contributed to the African National Congress (1942), and directed nonviolence defiance acts, such as the 1952 Defiance Campaign. After being released on February 11, 1990 some of the highlights in his life included being awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize (1993), becoming the first black president of the Republic of South Africa (1991), working to protect the South African economy, funding the creation of housing, and signing the South African 1996 Constitution. After he retired he helped raise money to build schools and clinics, meditated, wrote several books, and in 2007 he created a group made up of world leaders called "The Elders." Nelson Mandela's life was full of helping others, and fighting against colonialism in South Africa. You, like Nelson Mandela, can make a difference too; "It always seems impossible until it's done." (Nelson Mandela).

As you have read earlier there are ways to help end colonialism. One of these ways is spreading the word. You can do this by first learning facts and information about

colonialism by asking around, reading, or searching the internet. Then, you report what you've learned to the world by talking to the people in your daily life, or by posting about it on your social media accounts. If who you are finding are interested in doing more suggest donating or volunteering at organizations that already exist. If you want to take your support for colonialism to the next step you could start a website that brings awareness and educates people about colonialism. These steps will definitely bring more attention to this unpopular disparity, which in turn could draw the attention of people who would want to become anti-colonialists. Colonialism might not be as well known as other disparities, but by following those steps, we could bring much needed awareness to this cause!

There are still many violations of human rights, but like you have read above we can fix these constant problems in our society. Disparities violate your rights, my rights, and the rights of everybody around us. It hurts our society, our world, and people's lives! You are part of this world. If you don't help, who will? So, go out there and fight against the injustices that rage through our society! Fight against the unfairness of disparities! Fight to improve the world we live in! Anytime you feel yourself losing hope in this cause, remember what Nelson Mandela has said, "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up."