

| Topic | Knowledge |
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| <p>Equality</p> | <p>* Most people would argue that every human being deserves to be treated equally, fairly and with respect, regardless of their race, gender to social background. laws have been passed and agreements made in order to promote equality such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights: 30 rights in total are regularly protected as natural and legal rights in law. The UK recognises human rights in the 1998 human rights act of parliament as well as the European Commission of Human Rights. The United Nations (which involves most of the countries in the world) recognises Humans rights with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Examples of Human rights are: ● The right to life ● The right to education ● The right to freedom of speech - Equality Act 2010: The UK government has recognised 9 characteristics that should be protected from discrimination, they are: - Gender – Age – Sexual Orientation – Gender Reassignment – Race & Ethnicity – Religion or Belief – Pregnancy & Maternity – Disability – Marriage & Civil Partnership <p>* However, despite the laws in place to protect the most vulnerable in society there is often conflict and debate over how these laws should be applied. For example in 2014 customer Gareth Lee requested a cake featuring the Sesame Street characters Bert and Ernie, iced with the message: "Support Gay Marriage." From Ashers Bakery in Northern Ireland. The family-run baking company refused to make the cake and has described the same-sex marriage slogan as "inconsistent" with its religious beliefs. Mr Lee sued the company on the grounds of discrimination, the case went to the Supreme Court and it was ruled there was no political discrimination as well as no discrimination based on Mr Lee's sexual orientation. The case has caused much controversy and raised issues on how to deal with conflicting characteristics.</p> |
| <p>Freedom of Speech</p> | <p>*The freedom of speech is a human right, although many countries include this right in their government policy, there are some differences in limitation. The UK and USA do not allow speech which encourages terrorism however there are many groups and individuals who are tolerated in the USA due to their religious or political rights. By American Law the First Amendment protects the complete freedom of speech and so no one can be prosecuted for anything they choose to say. (E.g. the Westboro Baptist Church).</p> <p>* Hate speech comes from when people have set ways of thinking that hold hurtful beliefs about others. When hate speech takes place it is often because of a hate for another person or group. One example is the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) it is a small religious group based in Kansas in America. Their ideology is based around the idea that tragedies such as disease and murder are God's punishment for sin. They hold extreme beliefs such as homosexuality being 'wrong' and a sin against God's will. The WBC is not affiliated with any other church organisation; however, they do base their beliefs upon their interpretation of the Christian bible. This is obviously offensive to gay people and their actions can be extreme in protest. They have been known to picket (protest with banners) at funerals of gay people soldiers (because they died representing a country which tolerates homosexuality). Their interpretation of Jesus' teaching; 'Love your Neighbour' is to preach that homosexuality is a sin and to warn people from going to hell. This causes conflict between free speech and hate speech, some people's right to speak freely about their beliefs can offend people who take it as hate speech.</p> |
| <p>Feminism</p> | <p>* The debate surrounding gender equality had changed and developed over time however many argue that inequality between men and women is still present in todays society, recent figures suggest, only 32% of UK Members of Parliament are women, in businesses around the world 24% of senior management are women and only 11% of engineers are women. Highlighting the fact that there is a significant gender divide in certain high paying professions.</p> <p>* With both genders there are certain stereotypes to which people assume we should conform, for example old fashioned stereotypes of women suggest they should maintain the role of homemaker and should not work towards higher education, as well as the ideas that all girls like pink, shopping and gossiping. Although on the whole these stereotypes can be harmless, they become in issue within society when people act upon their gender prejudice and treat women differently due to these perceived differences, this can take the form of sexual harassment and unequal opportunity in the workplace.</p> <p>* Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes, in recent years there have been many movements by groups and individuals to challenge the gender divide, for example a ban on adverts featuring "harmful gender stereotypes" or those which are likely to cause "serious or widespread offence" has come into force. The ban covers scenarios such as a man with his feet up while a woman cleans, or a woman failing to park a car. The UK's advertising watchdog introduced the ban because it found some portrayals could play a part in "limiting people's potential". Also the Women's Engineering Society is a charity and a professional network of women engineers, scientists and technologists offering inspiration, support and professional development. Their aim is to Inspire and supporting girls and women to achieve their potential as engineers, applied scientists and technical leaders. To work collaboratively to assist educators, employers and influencers in creating a diverse engineering community.</p> |
| <p>Privilege</p> | <p>* Privilege is special right or advantage given to a particular person or group of people, for example Prince Harry can be considered privileged as he is a white male, from the royal family who is assumed to be straight with no obvious disabilities, however Ru Paul could be considered to be less privileged as he is mixed race and a member of the LGBT community, Ellie Simmons is a Paralympic swimmer who could also be considered to be less privileged as she has a physical disability.</p> <p>* It's important to note that often we cannot control the privilege we have, it is determined by factors beyond our control such as race, social circumstances, physical health and sexuality. Although we cannot control this, it is important we recognise that others do not always have the same opportunities.</p> |
| <p>Religion</p> | <p>* For centuries people have been persecuted due to their religious belief, in recent years there has been a rise in Islamophobia and racism towards the Muslim community with a 60% rise in anti-Muslim abuse since 2015. * One such example is the case of the 'Woman on the Bridge' in 2017 after the London Bridge attack a picture of a woman wearing a headscarf was circulated by the media which claimed she was walking past victims and sympathised with the terrorist attack. People were quick to share the image and many directed negative hate</p> |

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| | <p>filled comments towards her personally. It later transpired that the image was taken out of context, a closer look at her face revealed her upset and devastation, she wrote a statement addressing the media and clarified that she has previously been helping a victim and was letting her family know she was safe. This is just one such example of the media creating negative news stories directed at Islam.</p> <p>* There has also been an increase in news articles that have been bias towards Islam and given a negative portrayal of Muslims, for example The Sun has been ordered to admit a controversial story that said one in five British Muslims had sympathy for Isis was "significantly misleading". Press watchdog the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ips0) received an unprecedented 3,000 complaints over the article, which was headlined: '1 in 5 Brit Muslims' sympathy for jihadis.' The Sun was forced to apologise and retract all untrue statements.</p> <p>* Despite the negative media there has been a shift in attitudes in Liverpool which can be attributed to the football player Mo Salah. Salah is an Egyptian born Muslim who currently plays for Liverpool, over the last few years he has scored over 50 goals and has become a role model for many Liverpool fans, his religion is an important part of his life and he often thanks Allah during and after games. Chants have been written by fans with the lyrics "If he's good enough for you, he's good enough for me. If he scores another few, then I'll be Muslim too. If he's good enough for you, he's good enough for me. Sitting in the mosque, that's where I wanna be!" This enthusiasm and acceptance has seen a decrease in Islamophobia.</p> |
| LGBT | <p>* Members of the LGBT community have faced years of persecution and harassment, notable events throughout history include the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Act in 1885 which made homosexual relationships an offence which could result in a prison sentence, in 1967 the Sexual Offences act stopped the criminalisation of homosexual relationships however it placed strict conditions on LGBT interactions which lead to more arrests, the first Gay Pride took place in 1972 and has grown every year since, in 2010 the Equality Act was introduced and in 2014 the Equal Marriage Act made LGBT relationships recognisable by law.</p> <p>* In 1988 the government introduced 'Section 28' it banned the "promotion" of homosexuality by local authorities and in Britain's schools for example councils were forbidden from stocking libraries with literature or films that contained gay or lesbian themes and schools for unable to discuss LGBT issues with students.</p> <p>* There have been many inspirational groups and individuals who have been activists for LGBT equality and rights, for example LGBT History Month UK was set up by Schools OUT UK, in response to the abolition of Section 28, Mermaids is a charity that was set up to support the parents, carers and families of trans children and young people, Muslims for Progressive Values "affirms the equal worth of all human beings", seeking to educate and to dismiss false ideologies about Muslims and Islam. The organisation supports inter faith and LGBT+ partnerships and marriages.</p> |

| Key Word | Meaning |
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| Equality | The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities |
| Equity | The quality of being fair and impartial |
| Human Rights | Moral principles that describe certain standards that humans deserve just for being humans |
| Equality Act 2010 | An act of parliament in the UK that defines 9 qualities that are legally protected from discrimination |
| The Freedom of Speech | The power or right to express one's opinions without censorship, restraint, or legal penalty |
| Hate Speech | Speech that attacks someone because of their race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, age or gender. |
| Gender Prejudice | Where you pre judge somebody on their gender |
| Gender Discrimination | Where you act upon your prejudice and treat them differently |
| Stereotypes | A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing |
| Feminism | The advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes |
| Privilege | A special right or advantage given to a particular person or group of people |
| Islamophobia | The dislike of or prejudice against Islam or Muslims |
| Persecute | Subject (someone) to hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of their race or political or religious beliefs. |
| LGBT | L: Lesbian. G: Gay. B: Bisexual. T: Transgender |
| Section 28 | A law introduced that banned the "promotion" of homosexuality by local authorities and in Britain's schools. |
| Activism | The policy or action of using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change. |

| Quotes | Topic |
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| I accept that people are going to call me awful things every day, and I will always defend their right to do so. Barack Obama | Freedom of Speech |
| 'When the whole world is silent even one voice can change it' Malala Yousafzai | Feminism |
| 'If he's good enough for you, he's good enough for me. If he scores another few, then I'll be Muslim too' Mo Salah Chant | Religion |
| 'I stand here as a proud gay man, I hope we can all stand as equals one day' Sam Smith | LGBT |