

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ITALIAN CONSTITUTION

Declaration of Intent:

I would like to discuss the the topic under two different aspects: the first one related to with the school curriculum (thast is to connect the issue of Human Rights with literary texts of English literature) ; the second one from the moral point of view (and therefore explain Why and How Human Rights are so important).

Background to Human Rights:

Human Rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth to death. They should be respected regardless of where you are from, or what you belive in.

Human Rights have had a progressive development in history.

They have brought better justice and equalities among citizens.

The first document on Human Rights is the Cyrus Cylinder, according to which all people should be free from slavery and they can choose their religion.

Additional important documents on Human Rights are: The Magna Carta; The Petition of Right; The Constitution of the United States up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was signed in Paris in 1948. In our times we still refer to it.

The Costitution of the Italian Republic:

The Constitution is the first step a nation should refer to and respect to be democratic and liberal, it contains all the rights and duties of a citizen.

The first example in Italy of a Constitutional status was in the Bourbon Kingdom of Sicily in 1812. But the present Constitution was published in 1947. It is the most important law of Itlaly. In article number one the Constitution of the Italian Republic states that Italy is a Democratic Republic be based on work.

It includes the most important rights and just to quote some: the right to work, the right to free opinion or the right to vote and many more

Example of Human Rights:

In my personal path I have chosen **the right of a population to preserve its culture and tradition.**

In my opinion it is an important one because it implies one can remember her or his root and identity:

An example of violation of that right can be considered any form of Colonialism and Imperialism.

Because when the colonial Nations reached the other countries they have always imposed their culture which they considered superior.

We have studied a lot about this topic during the English lesson this year, and in particular when we analysed Post-Colonial literature.

Indeed the goal of Postcolonial writers is to use literature to recover their roots and their origins.

I will now connect the topic with three texts we analysed in class and precisely:

Lispeth by Rudyard Kipling (1886)

Midnight Children by Salman Rushdie (1981)
The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid (2007).