



DDI

# The struggle of human rights

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt

**EXPLORE**

- **Speech:** *Struggle for human rights*
- **Songs:**
  - *Brown girl*
  - *Brothers in arms*
  - *Gimme Shelter*































■ **WARM UP**

1 What do human beings need to survive? Make a list of **NEEDS** and **WANTS**.

NEEDS	WANTS



2 Look at the infographic. You will be divided into small groups. If you could only have 3 Human Rights guaranteed for the next 10 years, what would you choose? Debate within your group and give reasons for your choice.

 freedom and equality	 rights and freedoms for all	 life, liberty and security	 ban on slavery and servitude	 ban on torture	 recognition of the legal personality
 asylum	 social security	 equality before the law	 legal assistance	 ban on arbitrary detention	 fair and public trial
 presumption of innocence	 private and family life	 marriage equality and protection of the family	 private property	 freedom of thought, conscience and religion	 freedom of opinion and expression
 freedom of assembly and association	 democratic participation	 community	 social and international order	 respect of the rights and freedom set forth in this Declaration	 domestic and international freedom of movement
 nationality	 health and well-being	 education	 culture	 rest and leisure	 work and right to unionisation



## ■ THE SPEECH

SPEECH <http://tiny.cc/F0iltz>

I have come this evening to talk with you on one of the greatest issues of our time – that is the preservation of human freedom. I have chosen to discuss it here in France, at the Sorbonne, because here in this soil the roots of human freedom have long ago struck deep and here they have been richly nourished. It was here  
5 the Declaration of the Rights of Man was proclaimed, and the great slogans of the French Revolution – liberty, equality, fraternity – fired the imagination of men. I have chosen to discuss this issue in Europe because this has been the scene of the greatest historic battles between freedom and tyranny. I have chosen to discuss it in the early days of the General Assembly because the issue of human  
10 liberty is decisive for the settlement of outstanding political differences and for the future of the United Nations. [...]

We must not be deluded by the efforts of the forces of reaction to prostitute the great words of our free tradition and thereby to confuse the struggle. Democracy, freedom, human rights have come to have a definite meaning to the  
15 people of the world which we must not allow any nation to so change that they are made synonymous with suppression and dictatorship.

There are basic differences that show up even in the use of words between a democratic and a totalitarian country. For instance “democracy” means one thing to the U.S.S.R. and another the U.S.A. and, I know, in France. I have served  
20 since the first meeting of the nuclear commission on the Human Rights Commission, and I think this point stands out clearly.

The U.S.S.R. Representatives assert that they already have achieved many things which we, in what they call the “bourgeois democracies” cannot achieve because their government controls the accomplishment of these things. Our  
25 government seems powerless to them because, in the last analysis, it is controlled by the people. They would not put it that way – they would say that the people in the U.S.S.R. control their government by allowing their government to have certain absolute rights. We, on the other hand, feel that certain rights can never be granted to the government, but must be kept in the hands of the people.

30 For instance, the U.S.S.R. will assert that their press is free because the state makes it free by providing the machinery, the paper, and even the money for salaries for the people who work on the paper. They state that there is no control over what is printed in the various papers that they subsidize in this manner, such, for instance, as a trade-union paper. But what would happen if a paper  
35 were to print ideas which were critical of the basic policies and beliefs of the Communist government.? I am sure some good reason would be found for abolishing the paper.

### FACT FILE

- **WHO?** Eleanor Roosevelt. First Lady of the United States from 1933-1945 during Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency
- **WHERE?** Sorbonne, Paris
- **WHY?** She gave the speech to focus the attention on Human Rights
- **WHEN?** September 28th 1948



It is true that they have been many cases where newspapers in the U.S.S.R. have criticized officials and their actions and have been responsible for the  
 40 removal of those officials, but in doing so they did not criticize anything which was fundamental to Communist beliefs. They simply criticized methods of doing things, so one must differentiate between things which are permissible, such as criticism of any individual or of the manner of doing things, and the criticism of a belief which would be considered vital to the acceptance of Communism. [...]

45 The Charter of the United Nations is a guiding beacon along the way to the achievement of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world. The immediate test is not only to the extent to which human rights and freedoms have already been achieved, but the direction in which the world is moving. Is there a faithful compliance with the objectives of the Charter if some countries  
 50 continue to curtail human rights and freedoms instead of to promote the universal respect for an observance of human rights and freedoms for all as called for by the Charter?

■ LET'S WORK ON IT

- 3 Consider the first paragraph. Why has Eleanor Roosevelt chosen Paris to speak about Human Rights?
- 4 In this speech Eleanor Roosevelt includes an anecdote to compare and contrast totalitarian countries and democracies. Summarize its content.
- 5 What is the tone of the speech?

■ BEYOND THE WORDS

- 6 Many singers have tried to focus the attention on human rights. Check these songs. Which are the Rights taken into consideration? Complete.

VIDEO 3 <http://tiny.cc/eqn7tz>

**The Rolling Stones • Gimme Shelter**

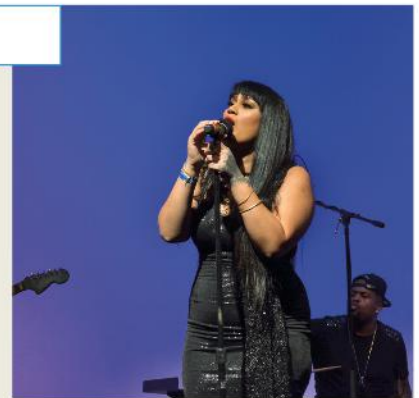
Human rights:  
 .....  
 .....  
 Evidence from the lyrics:  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....



VIDEO 1 <http://tiny.cc/qa48tz>

**Aaradhna  
 Brown Girl**

Human rights:  
 .....  
 .....  
 Evidence from the lyrics:  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....



VIDEO 2 <http://tiny.cc/kqn7tz>

**Dire Straits  
 Brothers In Arms**

Human rights:  
 .....  
 .....  
 Evidence from the lyrics:  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

