



CINEMA SESSIONS

# HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY

**DID YOU KNOW THAT PORTO IS A  
CIVIL-RIGHTS-FRIENDLY CITY?**

Come and discover all existing  
initiatives.

## GOING TO THE MOVIES

We've chosen some  
movies to help you  
understand the  
importance of human  
and civil rights  
advocacy.

Awareness is the first step towards the  
improvement of human and civil rights in  
society.



Project by:  
Giulia Conti, Giulia Peroni





## WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

*Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.*

*(United Nations)*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Since then it has been translated into 500 languages.



Violations of Human Rights and the lack of Civil ones is what moves society to stand up and demand that they be respected. **HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY** is about speaking out on human rights issues and taking action to improve a situation. This can be done not just by lawyers or professionals working for an organisation, but also by individual citizens, like friends, relatives and co-workers. Rights advocacy can be done through education, and empowerment, which mean to provide others with the capacity of defending their rights, but also through public protests and through the reporting of problems in communities.



## WHAT ARE CIVIL RIGHTS?

*Civil rights guarantee equal social opportunities and equal protection under the law, regardless of race, religion, or other personal characteristics. Examples of civil rights include the right to vote, the right to a public education, and the right to use public facilities. Civil rights are an essential component of democracy. When individuals are being denied opportunities to participate in political society, they are being denied their civil rights.*

*(USA Civil Rights Act)*

The main difference between Human rights and Civil rights is that the first ones are acquired inherently (every person around the world owns them), while civil rights must be given and guaranteed by the power of the State. Therefore, this second group varies greatly over time, culture, and type of government and tends to follow social trends that condone or abhor particular types of discrimination. For example, the LGBTQ community has only recently come to the forefront of political debate in some Western countries, regarding their Civil rights.



In this online cineforum, we will present several movies, documentaries and videos, in which Human or Civil rights violations can be detected. The aim of this project is to provide some material to reflect about different situations and dynamics in which Rights advocacy can be applied. The topics of the movies are varied, in order to show how Human and Civil rights influence every aspect of our life and our society. All movies or documentaries will be followed by some questions, which you can discuss and reflect upon alone, or with your classmates, friends or family.

At this link you can find more information about the best tools to advocate for rights:

[https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/human\\_rights\\_advocacy\\_methods](https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/human_rights_advocacy_methods)

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT

## The Brazilian Amazon

### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The Amazon forest has always been a central source of income for the Brazilian economy, and an attraction for national and international investments. Natural goods are extracted from its land since Colonialism. Unfortunately, the forest has been seen as an infinite source of money for capitalist interests. Nowadays, and especially after president Bolsonaro took the power in January 2019, the Amazon faces a frightening increase in deforestation.

The Amazon is the home to most of 1 million Indigenous people. They are divided into about 400 tribes, each with its own language, culture and territory. In general, they live their life in deep contact with nature. In the last years, as a consequence of the systematic deforestation that took place in different parts of the forest, many local tribes saw their lands disappear under the fire, and their houses being expropriated.



One of the major problems for the Amazon tribes is that their land ownership of the places where they live for generations is not formal: there are no documents attesting it. Formally, those lands are public. This shows a big gap between Brazilian law and local realities: those people never had the chance to be formally recognized as the owners of that land. This is what allows the national government to expropriate it for economic interests.

The second problem is corruption, and the extreme poverty experienced by many Indigenous people: together, they play a fundamental role in pushing locals to help timber extractors.

Native Indians' civil rights are completely violated in this contest. The environmental crisis regarding the Amazon deforestation is deeply related with civil rights violations.

# "THE GUARDIANS OF THE AMAZON"



This documentary shows how some local tribes organized to fight Amazon exploitation in a context where national security forces are absent in most of the cases.

"The Guardians of the Amazon", 2020, ABC News

Target audience:  
from 13 years old



You can find it at this link:

<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/guardians-amazon/>



## SOME QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT...

- When the Brazilian Government allowed vast deforestations in the Amazon forest, the International community strongly criticized it, stating that the forest is a common good of every citizen in the world, as it provides oxygen, for example. At the same time, Bolsonaro clearly answered in several interviews that the Amazon forest belongs to Brazil, as it is situated on its territory, and for this reason it is only its government who can decide what happens to it. Indeed, generally, international law can't interfere in a National context. What do you think about this idea, and how would you answer to President Bolsonaro's statement?
- What do you think about the option, stated by Mr. Salles (Minister of the Environment), about the possibility for Indigenous people to choose if they want to change their way of life or not? Do you think it can be a real "free" choice for them?
- What could we do to reduce deforestation in the Amazon forest, and, as a consequence, to help locals to regain their right for a safe life and dignity?



# Women's Rights are Human Rights



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## NE RESTONS PAS MUETS FACE AUX VIOLENCES CONJUGALES

Target  
audience:  
from 13  
years old



Check out this short movie:  
<https://youtu.be/80hrqAExBPY>

By copying the techniques of silent movies, this video exemplifies the horrific **silence** that too often surrounds domestic violence.

And that's the silence that is the background to the short movie. The silence typical of black and white movie, as if to remember a distant era but not far enough to have eliminated this practice that is still common. The silence that accompanies the spectators who, at the window, don't halt the beating. This kind of silence is just a small example of a much larger type, a silence shifted on a socially and geographically greater scale, the same silence that accompanies all the injustices, deaths and abuses that thousands of people are victims of every day.

***Have you ever thought that silence is complicity? If we don't mobilize for others' injustices, who will do it for us when we're the victims?***

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD AN UNFAIR CHOCOLATE

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

From where does our chocolate come from? Was it produced in a socially sustainable way? What is behind those chocolate bars that we like so much?

Chocolate is made from the fruits of the cocoa tree, which grows mostly in Central America and Sub Saharan Africa. The beans need to be processed and the steps between harvesting the beans and consuming the bars of chocolate are many. They also take place in different countries, giving a job to many people around the world. In this very long process, the person who usually pays the higher price is not the final consumer, but the first producer, who harvests the cocoa beans. This raw material is in fact sold at a very low price, compared to the final one. In order to be able to guarantee competitive prices on the global market, producers have to give low wages to their workers, sometimes going against international laws and conventions on human rights.

Cote d'Ivoire's economy deeply depends from cocoa production.

There, cocoa is offered to international companies at a very low price. Several enquiries found out that many children are forced to work in the cocoa production, in exchange of a very low wage. These children are often trafficked from other nearby poor countries.



Cote d'Ivoire prohibits human trafficking and child labour with a national law.

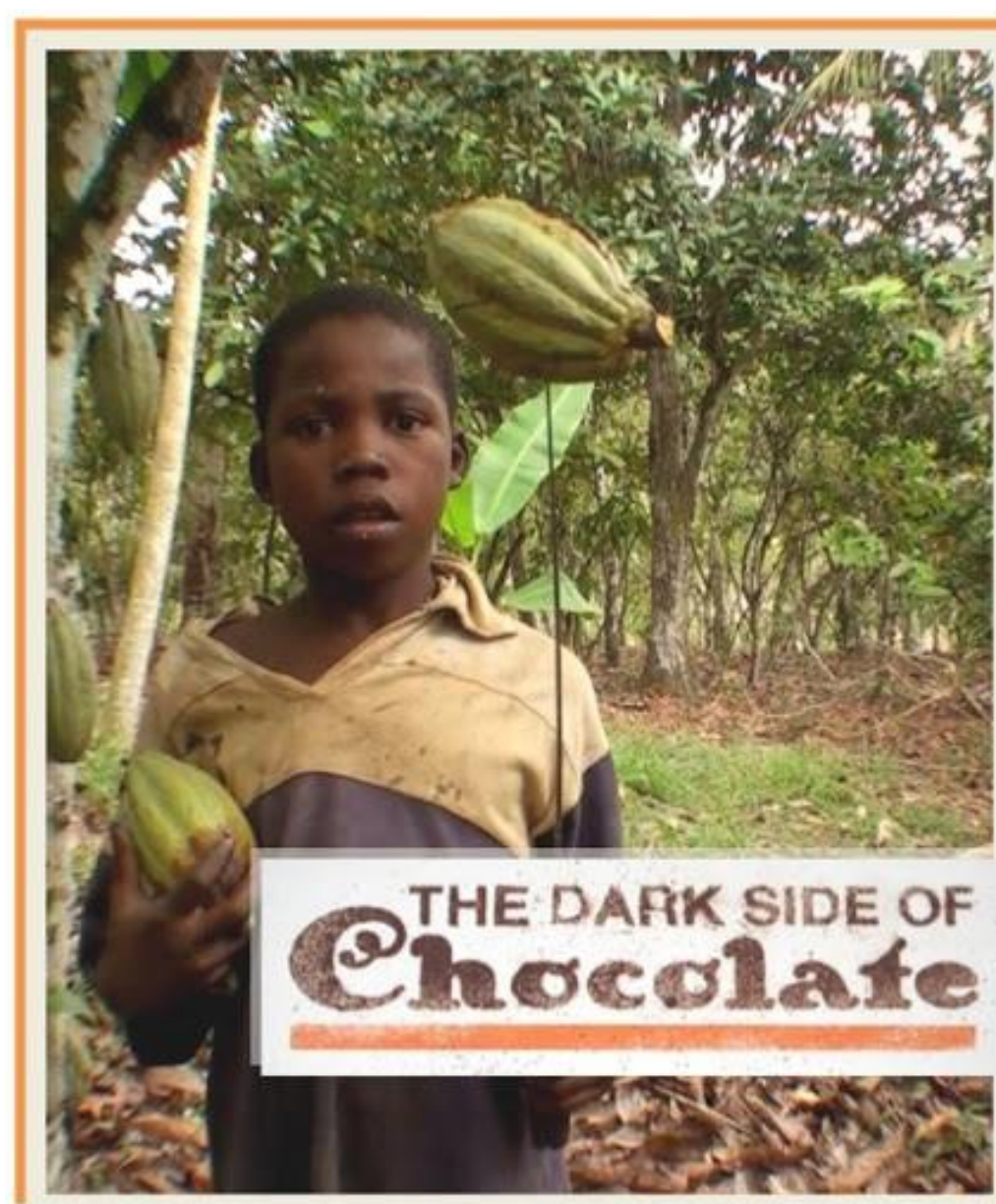
Moreover, the human traffic behind its chocolate production is a violation of human rights and freedom. These rights are established by several international agreements. the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in its 4th article, imposes the prohibition of slavery and human trafficking. Moreover, the International Labour Organization (ILO), that abolished child labour, establishes that the general minimum age for admission to employment should not be less than 15 years. Developing countries may make exceptions to this, and a minimum age of 14 years may be applied where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed. In every case, dignus working conditions and a fair salary always have to be provided. Types of work dubbed "the worst forms of child labour" are however totally unacceptable for all children under the age of 18 years. These forms include such inhumane practices as slavery and trafficking. The right for children to receive education is also denied to them if they have to work.

# "THE DARK SIDE OF CHOCOLATE"



In this documentary you can find out more about human rights violations in Côte d'Ivoire's cocoa production.  
"The dark side of chocolate", M. Mistrati and R. Romano, 2010

Target audience:  
from 14 years old



You can find it at this link:

<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/dark-side-chocolate/>



## **SOME QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT...**

- What can we do, as European consumers, to increase our knowledge about the origins of our foods?
- Do you know Fair Trade products? Have you ever tried them?
- Would you accept to pay a higher price for a product if you could know how it was made?

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOOD



## BEYOND THE SEAL



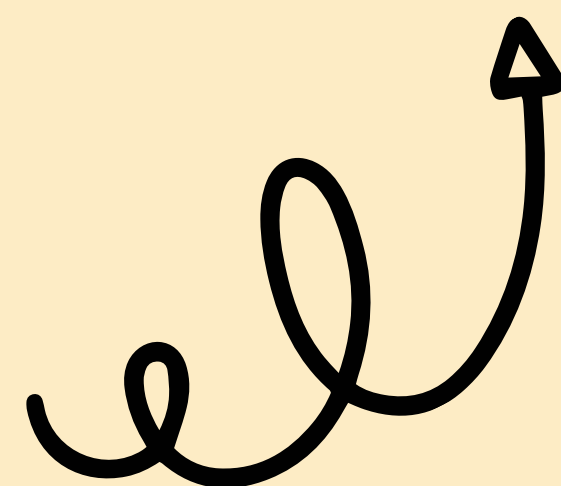
Target  
audience:  
from 15  
years old

Check out this short movie:

<https://realfoodmedia.org/video/beyond-the-seal/>

The following video is  
recommended for  
youngsters:

<https://youtu.be/v0YXIOxmUGw>



Bananas are grown on small-scale farms, as well as large plantations. The banana industry provides employment for thousands of people in many states, spanning from Latin America to the Caribbean, to Southeast Asia and, lastly, to West Africa. The trade in bananas is a cornerstone of many developing countries' economies but there are many complex social problems in the industry. A highly competitive market creates price pressure on bananas, putting the squeeze on banana growers.

The banana industry is labour-intensive and demanding, and that pushes retailers to offer deep discounts on bananas, sometimes selling below cost to attract customers. For these factors, banana producers are in a bind.

*Were you aware of these inhumane working conditions of this sector?*

Fairtrade aims to empower banana farmers and workers. For instance, Fairtrade banana producers are paid a Fairtrade Minimum Price that acts as a safety net against falling prices. Moreover, plantation workers and small-scale banana farmers also receive an extra sum of money that usually is invested in business or community projects where they think it's needed. And consumers who purchase Fairtrade bananas play a key part too: the higher the sales, the more the benefits for producers accrue.

An example that fits perfectly is the **Banana da Madeira**, a distinctive symbol of this archipelago. These small bananas are grown in optimal conditions, taking into account both workers and consumers' lives and health. These cautions led to a spike in prices but, nothing stopped the trade flow that is now more flourishing than ever, being also regulated by European laws.

*Do you think that buying non-fair-trade bananas increases the power of these companies, to the detriment of workers and law-abiding producers who stick to the rules?*

**PORTUGAL HAS SEVERAL LAWS TO PROTECT LGBTQ+ PEOPLE'S RIGHTS. GAY MARRIAGE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, ALLOWED SINCE 2010. THIS SHOULD MAKE PORTUGAL A LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY PLACE.**

**DESPITE IT, IN MANY INFORMAL AND EVERYDAY LIFE CONTEXTS DISCRIMINATIONS ARE STILL PRESENT. IN ORDER TO CHANGE STEREOTYPES AND MAKE EVERYONE FEEL ACCEPTED AND INTEGRATED, COLLECTIVE ACTION IS WHAT IS NEEDED!**



## **IN PORTO YOU CAN FIND MANY ASSOCIATIONS WORKING IN THIS DIRECTION!**



**In Matosinhos you can find G!S. The association helps LGBTQ+ people through a variety of services, from psychological support to a phone help-line reachable 24h a day. They also do educational activities and they provide information and support not only to LGBTQ+ people, but also to their families and whoever is interested in it.**

**They also have a mobile unit, the Gabinete Itinerante de Saúde (GiS), which carries out information campaigns for awareness raising and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.**

**Find out more on their website:**

**<https://www.associacaoplanoi.org/centrogis/>**

**Phone number: +351 966 090 117**



**<https://www.facebook.com/CentroGis/>**



**They are a group of young people who organize meetings and support activities for LGBTQ+ young people who want to spend time in a welcoming environment and meet others with the same feelings about sexuality and sexual orientation. You can join the association in rua Mouzinho da Silveira, n°234, Porto**



**Find out more about them at: <https://www.rea.pt/grupo/porto/>**

**and take a look to their  page:**

**[https://www.facebook.com/redeexaequo/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/redeexaequo/?ref=page_internal)**

**ILGA Portugal is the oldest association in Portugal defending LGBTQ+ rights. Check their social media pages, where you can find interesting and up-to-date information about LGBTQ+ communities in Portugal, new laws regarding civil rights and events organized around the country.**



**<https://www.facebook.com/ilgaportugal>**



**<https://twitter.com/ilgaportugal>**



**<https://www.instagram.com/ilgaportugal/>**



**LGBTQ+ meaning: L= lesbian G= gay B= bisexual T= transgender Q= questioning and + meaning other sexualities such as pansexual, asexual and omnisexual extra.**

# CIVIL RIGHTS AND INEFFECTIVE LAWS

## CIUDADANOS



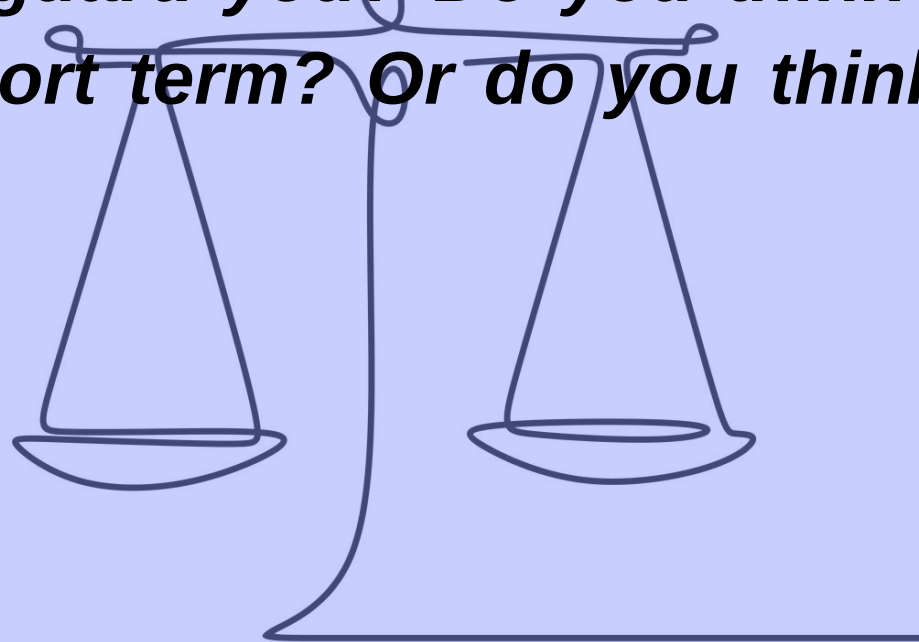
Take a look at this short movie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjiqTTx94rA>

Target  
audience:  
from 15  
years old

The lack of jobs leads citizens into an emergency situation that pits them against each other. For instance, many unemployed people rent their own home to get money and, for this reason they have to look for rental rooms to live in. That's what happened to Noe. However, while her landlord wants the money he's owed for the monthly rent, she is unable to stand up for herself and get back the money she's owed. In the face of violence and injustice, citizens like Noe suffer from the absence of effective laws. This means that the laws that protect this type of cases exist but are difficult to enforce or need special circumstances to take action. This is a serious issue that every State must face in order to guarantee the full application of the law.

*Have you ever felt unprotected by your State, even though there are laws that formally should safeguard you? Do you think it's a problem that your State can solve in the short term? Or do you think it needs a long-lasting commitment?*





## CASE STUDY: PORTUGUESE GENDER PAY GAP

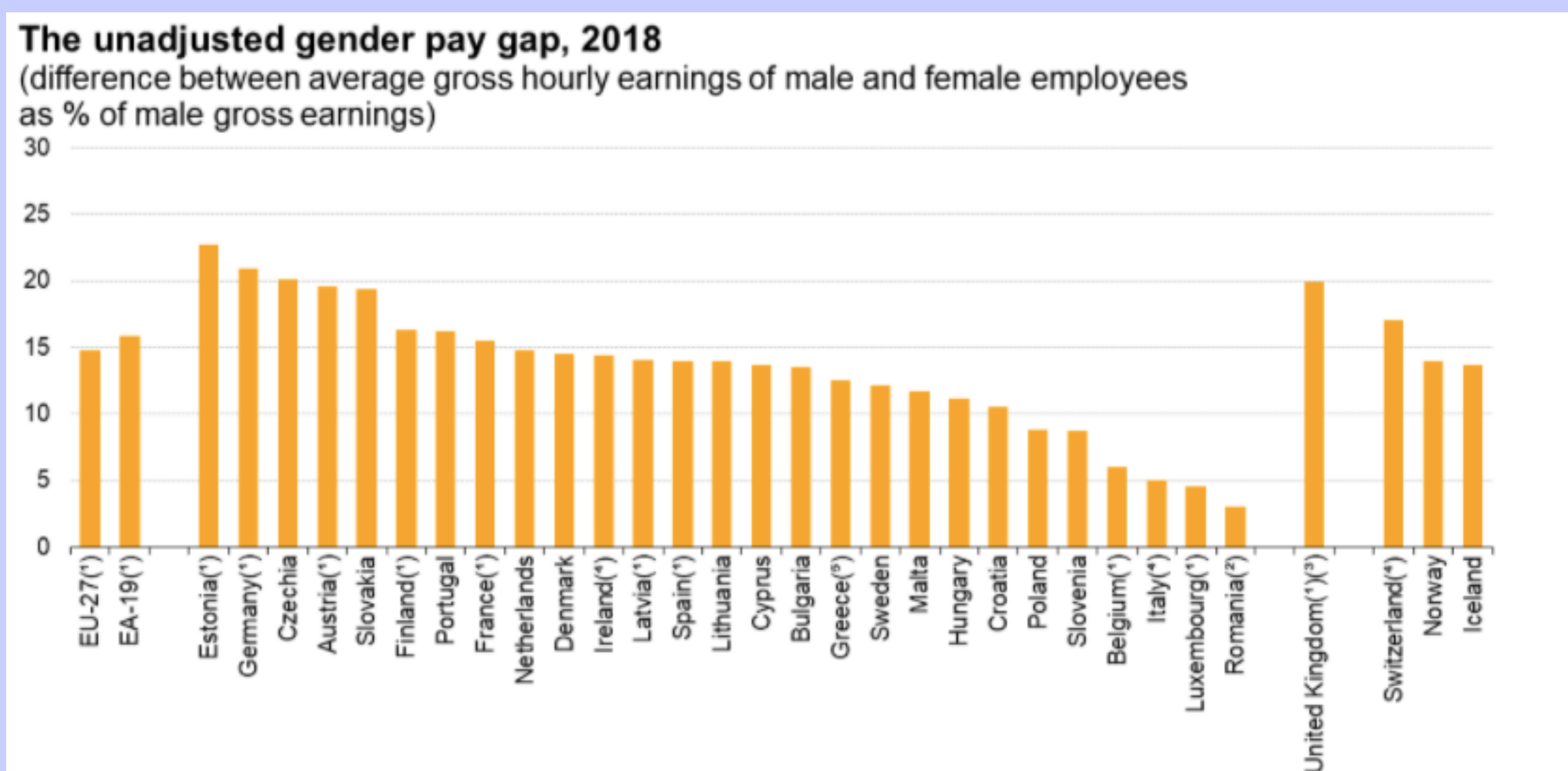
If you still don't think that the problem raised by this video is a serious issue, here is a concrete example. Article 9 of the Constitution of Portugal states that:

The fundamental tasks of the State are:

- [...] To promote the people's well-being and quality of life and real equality between the Portuguese, as well as the effective implementation of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights by means of the transformation and modernisation of economic and social structures;
- [...] To promote equality between men and women.

*Do you think men and women are considered in an equal way from a social and an economic point of view?*

According to researches carried out by the European Commission, women in the EU are less present in the labour market than men and they earn 16% on average less per hour than men (in some cases doing jobs of equal value). The gender pay gap in Portugal is 16.2% (updated to 2018) which is not the highest ever recorded in the EU, but it's not so low to seem nonexistent either.



In the light of what you have learned, *does it frighten you that a State does not comply with what is guaranteed by the Constitution (which is meant to be the higher law of a State)? What if all the rights constitutionally safeguarded amounted to nothing, thus remaining a dead end?*



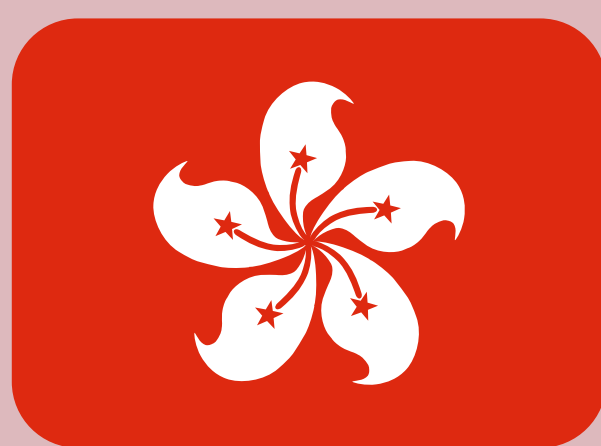
# HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN HONG KONG ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Hong Kong is a metropolitan area and Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. When it ceased to be a British colony in 1997, its control was transferred to China. Hong Kong was then declared a Special Administrative Region. This allowed it to have separate governing and economic systems from that of mainland China, under a principle of "one country, two systems". The National Chinese Government devolved to Hong Kong administrators many executive, legislative, and judicial powers, meaning that the Region has formally huge freedom related to rules establishment and implementation.

Since 1997, Hong Kong has grown incredibly fast. Nowadays, it's a highly developed territory and ranks fourth on the UN Human Development Index (while China is 85th). The city also has the largest number of skyscrapers of any city in the world, and its residents have some of the highest life expectancies in the world.

The Hong Kong Government is democratic, while the Chinese one is autocratic. Hong Kong citizens carry more Civil and political rights, their Human rights are respected and protected by their law, and this is what makes Hong Kong so prosperous, compared to mainland China.



Nevertheless, Hong Kong special administration powers are expected to formally end in 2047, when it will be eventually incorporated by China, and its special status will disappear. The administrative experiment conducted in Hong Kong (as also in another region, Macau) often generates problems related with the fact that China wants to maintain an influence on the decisions taken in that Region. This provoked many tensions between Hong Kong citizens and their government, which supports China. The protesters, in many case young people, don't want to lose freedom and rights, because of Chinese intromission. In June 2019 the world started hearing more about this contrast, as many peaceful protests spread around the region, to advocate against Chinese attempt to gain power in Hong Kong law making. In fact, this intromission is happening already now, even before 2047, threatening rights and freedom.

# STANDING UP FOR HONG KONG



This video from Vox explains why Hong Kong is hosting huge protests since June 2019 and why China is accused of not respecting Hong Kong democracy. Some interviews will show why Hong Kong citizens are afraid of what could happen after 2047, when their Region will fully fall under Chinese control.

Target  
audience:  
from 14  
years old



You can find it at this link:  
[https://youtu.be/6\\_RdnVtfZPY](https://youtu.be/6_RdnVtfZPY)



## SOME QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT...

- What do you think about the peaceful protests in Hong Kong? What would you do if this happened in your country?
- Do you know which are the most important moments in the history of your country, when citizens gained freedom and rights? How did they obtain them?
- The Chinese Government strongly criticizes Human Rights organizations, like Amnesty International, which are not allowed to work in the Chinese territory. On the other hand, Hong Kong accepts and allows them to work in that region. What do you think could be the role of these Organizations during the Hong Kong protests? Do you think this could finally give them the power to stand legally against Chinese rights violations?

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM



Target  
audience:  
from 13  
years old

Check out this short movie:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=5&v=xUasBLC\\_ICI&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=xUasBLC_ICI&feature=emb_logo)

This short animated video takes us on a metaphorical journey showing humankind's struggle for freedom over the last half century.

In the initial scene there are healthy **bright red flowers**. *What do you think they represent? Have you noticed that the flowers wither as the wall is built?*

The **wall** that stands at the beginning of the video clearly represents a limitation, an obstacle. The wall has always been used to express a feeling of oppression and interruption of an idyllic continuity, a brusque turn. *Have you ever felt oppressed and limited, as someone wanted to decide your life preventing you from doing what you want?*

The short film also highlights the burdensome **logic of profit**. Unfortunately, nowadays most of the world is governed by this logic, which may have positive sides, but it certainly has just as many negative sides. Even centuries ago, when this logic wasn't yet so deep-rooted, writers, artists and poets expressed themselves against it by analysing her inexorable consequences. One of these is the reduction of freedom, which loses the pole position in favor of unrestrained capitalism. *Are you willing to give up your freedom to promote economic prosperity?*

Just like in the final scene, we should break down the wall of hatred, limitation, profit, wickedness. Promoting freedom means giving a chance to those who have no choice, to those who are oppressed and helpless, to those who have no say in their lives.

And remember

**YOUR FREEDOM ENDS WHERE OTHERS' FREEDOM BEGINS**

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS A GLOBAL  
MOVEMENT OF MORE THAN 7 MILLION  
PEOPLE WHO CAMPAIGN FOR A WORLD  
WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ENJOYED BY  
ALL.**

***"We help fight abuses of human rights worldwide. We bring  
torturers to justice. Change oppressive laws. And free people  
jailed just for voicing their opinion"***

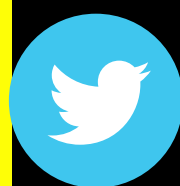
Amnesty Portugal works both on a national and international level. Its main tool is information, shared on its website and social media, but also through education in schools and public events. Many of its members are volunteers.

Find out more on their website:

<https://www.amnistia.pt/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/>

or on their social media:



<https://twitter.com/amnesty>



<https://www.instagram.com/amnesty/?hl=it>



<https://www.facebook.com/amnesty>

# A HOME IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT



Find out more about UN actions to protect refugees and their rights on this website:  
<https://www.unhcr.org/>

*"At least 79.5 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly 26 million refugees.*

*There are also millions of stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and lack access to basic rights such as education, health care, employment and freedom of movement.*

*At a time when 1 per cent of the world's population have fled their homes as a result of conflict or persecution, our work at UNHCR is more important than ever before"*

**UNHCR, United Nations Refugee Agency**



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE STATELESS?

Find it out in this  
video:

[https://youtu.be/  
Q9gAnWnfSRc](https://youtu.be/Q9gAnWnfSRc)



In Portugal, there are  
553 people officially recognized  
as stateless, many of whom were  
born and raised in Portugal, but their  
families come from  
former Portuguese colonies.

Data and legislation about stateless people in  
Portugal available at this link:  
<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5bc602314.html>

**IF YOU DON'T HAVE A  
CITIZENSHIP**



**YOU DON'T HAVE CIVIL  
RIGHTS**



**AND YOU ARE  
MORE LIKELY TO  
BE A VICTIM OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS**



**"IT'S A MAN-MADE  
PROBLEM THAT WE  
CAN SOLVE"  
CATE BLANCHETT**



# BLACK LIVES MATTER

BLACK LIVES MATTER is an international activist movement born in the US in 2013. It stands for equity of treatment and the end of racism against black people. The movement asks Governments and civil society to stop discrimination and start respecting black people's rights

Fid out more:  
<http://www.blacklivesmatter.com/>



# HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION



Check out this short movie:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_OUpsWCvE38&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OUpsWCvE38&feature=emb_logo)

Target  
audience:  
from 13  
years old

This video shows an alternative reality where Europeans are the ones undertaking a dangerous journey to reach Africa, only to be detained at immigration centres and be refused entrance at the border. It uses powerful imagery to challenge our perspective on the human reality of experiences of migration and make us more aware of the situation that many migrants and refugees face when trying to reach European borders.

*Try to put yourself in the situation, if Europeans were to seek asylum in Africa, would you continue to think the same way?*

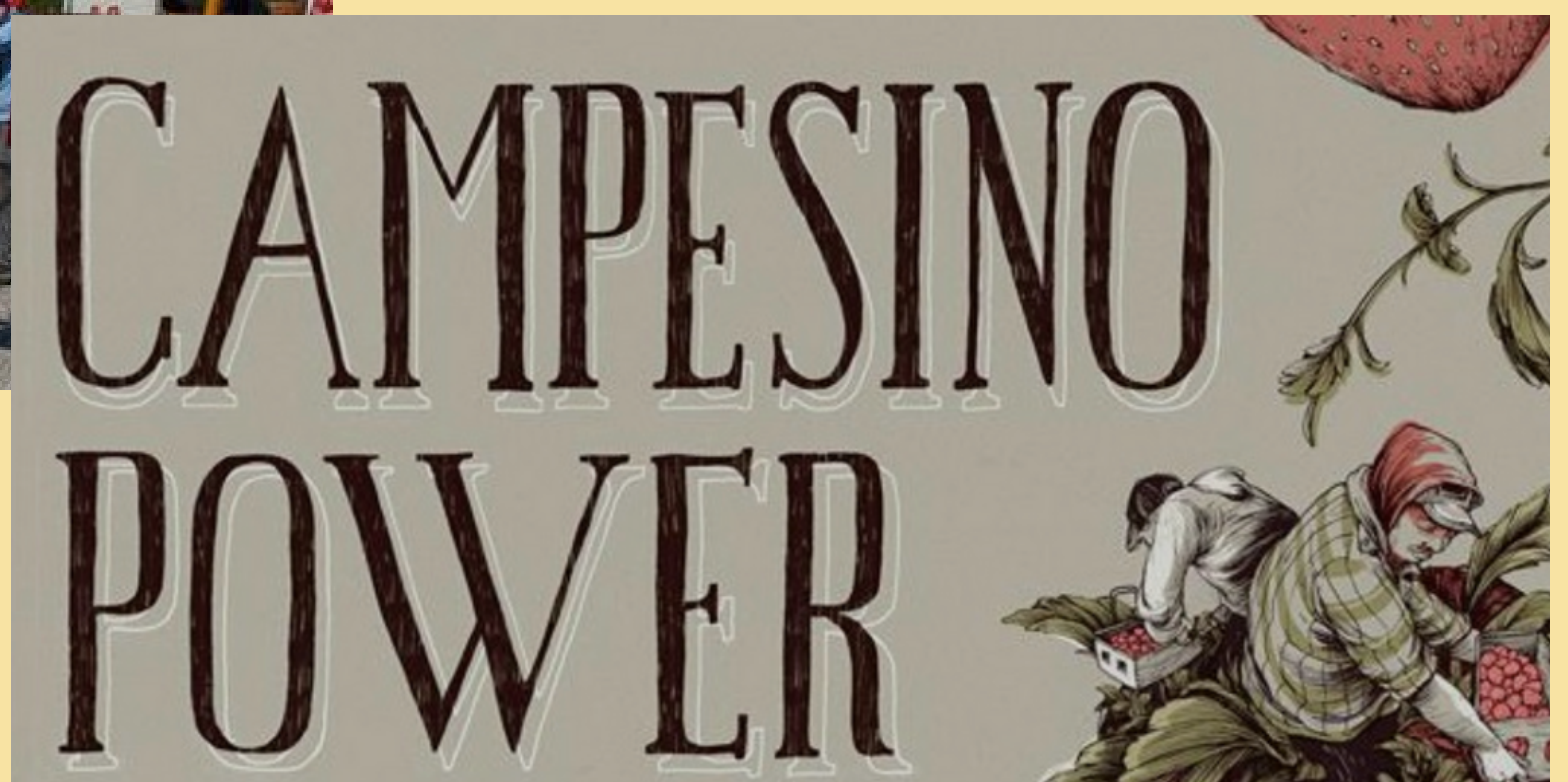
At some point the child claims he doesn't know what he did to be treated with such carelessness and inhumanity, *do you have an idea of what immigrant are guilty of?* But more importantly, *do you know where this xenophobia comes from?*





# CIVIL RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

## OUR WORK IS LIFE



Target  
audience:  
from 15  
years old

Take a look at this short movie:

<https://realfoodmedia.org/video/our-work-is-life/>

This short movie gives us a glimpse of the complex story of migrant farmworkers in the United States. The film shows an indigenous Mexican campesinos group's advocacy for dignity and fairness against the harsh working conditions on a berry farm in Washington State. Sick of this situation, many Spanish speaking farmworkers working at Sakuma Bros Berry have set up *Familias Unidas por la Justicia* (United Families for Justice) with the hopes of securing a better future for hand harvesters.

They call for better working conditions, richer wages, but above all, a steady contract to protect them from employers' arbitrary demands and injustices. On September 12 th, 2016, Familias Unidas managed to gain contracts guaranteeing a \$15 hourly wage that sets up a process to calculate a fair piece-rate wage for berry pickers. It also establishes a grievance process and protects against arbitrary termination.

Nowadays Familias Unidas, despite having obtained what it was founded for, keeps working by linking the cause of migrant workers to other issues, including climate change, immigration reform and racial justice.

*How is the situation of farmworkers in your country?*

As you've seen, strikes and boycotts have helped Mexican farmworkers secure more decent conditions; *do you believe in the power of this kind of action?*

# INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

*The United Nations labour Agency*

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE ILO ARE  
TO PROMOTE RIGHTS AT WORK,  
ENCOURAGE DECENT  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,  
ENHANCE SOCIAL PROTECTION  
AND STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE ON  
WORK-RELATED ISSUES.



**Find out more about ILO labour  
standards and initiatives around the  
world to protect workers rights:**

[https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--  
en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm)



International  
Labour  
Organization