



What is Discrimination and Why is Equality Important

KS3 CITIZENSHIP

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What is Discrimination?

Discrimination happens when someone is treated unfairly because of who they are. This might be because of their **race, religion, gender, age, disability**, or other things that make them different. It's when people judge you before they even know you, just based on how you look or what group they think you belong to.

For example, if a shop owner won't hire someone because of the colour of their skin, that's discrimination. If a school doesn't let a child with a disability join a club even though they're fully capable, that's discrimination too. These things are unfair and, in many countries, they're actually **illegal**.

Think of it like a football team that won't let someone play because they're left-handed, even though left-handed players can be just as good. That would be unfair, right?

Why Does Discrimination Happen?

Discrimination usually comes from **stereotypes** and **prejudice**. A stereotype is when you assume all people in a group are the same. Prejudice is when you've already decided you don't like someone before you even meet them. These ideas get passed down through families, schools, and media, and they can stick in people's minds without them even realizing it.

Why is Equality So Important?

Equality means everyone gets treated fairly and has the same chances in life, no matter who they are. When people are treated as equals, whole societies become stronger and happier.

If discrimination stops people from going to school, getting jobs, or living where they want, those people never get the chance to achieve their dreams. Their talents go to

waste, and everyone loses out. When we have equality, everyone can study what they love, work at jobs that suit them, and contribute their unique skills to the world.

Think of it like a classroom where only some students get textbooks. The students without books can't learn properly, the whole class misses out on their ideas, and the unfairness spreads through everyone's lives.

How Can We Create More Equality?

Creating equality takes work from everyone. We can speak up when we see discrimination. We can get to know people from different backgrounds and challenge stereotypes. Laws like the **Equality Act** in the **UK** protect people from discrimination in jobs, schools, shops, and services. But real change happens when people decide that fairness matters more than old prejudices.