**AQA GCSE RS Homework: Preparing for Lesson on Religion and Human Rights: Using the Two Chairs Exchange**

Think back to the ideas on the Two Chairs Exchange. It’s about:

* Dialogue between faiths– but not dialogue alone.
* Listening attentively to the other, without judging what they say against your own beliefs
* Empathy – the value of imagining encounters with ‘others’.
* Understanding that differences and similarities exist between faiths
* Differences and similarities between faith and practice may be more complex and subtle than might it might first appear
* Acknowledging difference in belief/ practice does not prevent meaningful exchange, shared values and dialogue.

Now consider these statements on human rights, and consider the question:

* Human rights relate to individuals. Whilst the right to freedom of thought, religion and belief is asserted as a human right, sometimes religions themselves curtail the rights of individuals to live in freedom.
* Religions themselves are not seen as inherently valuable in human rights context.
* Religions are only protected in society in order to guarantee the human right of individual belief and freedom or religious practice.
* Question: Do religions curtail human rights?

Thinking and research: Are human rights and religion compatible?

* The British Humanist Society campaigns against the special privileges, which they perceive religion has enjoyed.
* They have argued that individual’s human rights are frequently compromised by religion, and that religious groups have unfairly been allowed legal privilege to discriminate against those who do not share their religious views.
* Read up on this here: <https://humanism.org.uk/campaigns/human-rights-and-equality/>
* Question: In the light of your research Are human rights and religion compatible?