

Human dignity

Introduction

Episode II

2 - 6 March 2020 in L'Elia, Valencia, Spain

KA 229: May ICT be with you

Meaning

- ▶ Middle English: from Old French '*dignete*', from Latin '*dignitas*', from '*dignus*' (worthy)
- ▶ If you talk about *the dignity of people or their lives or activities*, you mean that they are valuable and worthy of respect.
- ▶ In politics used to critique the treatment of oppressed and vulnerable groups and peoples

Human dignity violated in multiple ways

- ▶ *Humiliation* → acts that humiliate or diminish the self-worth of a person or a group
- ▶ *Instrumentalization or objectification* → treating a person as an instrument or as means to achieve some other goal
- ▶ *Degradation* → acts that degrade the value of human beings
- ▶ *Dehumanization* → acts that strip a person or a group of their human characteristics

United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- ▶ All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
- ▶ Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The European Union's fundamental values

- ▶ Human dignity
- ▶ Human rights
- ▶ Freedom
- ▶ Democracy
- ▶ Equality
- ▶ The rule of law

The Charter of Fundamental Rights

- ▶ guarantees the right to human dignity, which ‘is inviolable [and] must be respected and protected’.
- ▶ allows individuals to claim violations of their human dignity in court
- ▶ mostly related to the rights of asylum seekers and people under international protection
- ▶ protects against the development of technology, which may challenge what ‘human’ means

What does human dignity mean to you?



[Creative Commons Zero - CC0](#)