Dear Professor Sev Ozdowski,

I would like to thank you for coming to my class to teach us facts and points of Human Rights. I was quite happy to find out you were coming as I have been interested in Human Rights for an extremely long time and only had minimal knowledge about this subject.

I never knew that many people died in concentration camps established by Adolf Hitler during the Second World War. A question you presented to the class was whether asylum seekers should be allowed to come to Australia seeking refuge. I think they should since they have a right to have a safe home. I really would like asylum seekers to get a home in Australia instead of being sent somewhere just as horrible. That is horrible and you will strip the asylum seekers of all hope.

You taught me many new facts, one of which was that your human rights can never be changed even if you are in another country. I never knew that as I thought that the government could do whatever they wanted towards people as long as it stayed within the boundaries of the law. Another fact was that Australia did not have a Bill of Rights unlike America.

Human right has not been a major part of my life before until now and I want to study this subject more than ever. You have opened a new path for my future studies and I applaud you for that.

Victor

I am writing to thank you for giving us your precious time and teaching us about human rights. Before attending your lesson, I didn’t know much about human rights but now I know much more. I didn’t know that human rights started after World War II or that the first bomb was dropped on the 6th of August 1944 either, when 89000 people were killed and 28000 buildings were destroyed out of 90000 buildings.

I think your lecture was really good and I hope everyone else thinks the same. I hope you can come back next year and teach another class.

Thank you once again for your visit to Kingswood Public School. I will remember your visit.

Sahil

We appreciate the effort you have put into opening our minds and letting us see and think about Human Rights in our daily lives. In fact, we have easily understood about this subject as you have presented in a simple and creative way.

I think when people get to understand the real meaning of Human Rights, they will be able to promote justice around the world. People like Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi are the people I see as the leaders who fought for equality and freedom.

Our class has learnt from you that Human Rights are the basic rights for every human being and its existence in our lives is very important and without it, our lives would be disastrous. In many countries, people are discriminated against and treated in a cruel way because they are minorities. It is now said that Australia is also treating asylum seekers in an inhumane way. The asylum seekers are locked in detention centres without being released into the community. The government is going to send the asylum seekers to Papua New Guinea.

Before I heard your speech, I only had a general concept of Human Rights and I did not know that it became a major issue only after the Second World War. All human beings are born with equal rights and fundamental freedom which no one can take away.

Dhivya

I would like to thank you for coming to our school and speaking to our class on the topic of Human Rights. This topic interests me, since it is broken nearly every day by different countries.

Now onto your question you stated in your lecture. It referred to Asylum Seekers and whether they should receive entrance into Australia. Well, I am not sure, since I am for both sides; what I mean is that, if more Asylum Seekers enter Australia, more Australians might be forced out of jobs, but if we don’t let the Asylum Seekers enter our country, they might die from the diseases from their own country.

The story that stuck most in my mind was of World War II and the Jewish folk. In this age, not all countries have the same rights as Australians. Humanity has a long way to go till they are all free and equal. I think that we should all be treated the same way, no matter what race, colour or culture we are.

Sincerely, Preston

Human rights, a subject about basic rights and freedom to which all humans are entitled. From time to time this issue has been brought up in the daily news, the radio and even on the television. It isn’t for every country that a child has the right to go to school five days a week to be educated, or an adult to even have a job to earn money and be treated equally. You, Dr Ozdowski have clearly explained the term ‘human rights’ so that we could have a deep understanding of what it meant.

Recently, there have been many issues about asylum seekers, refugees and people in detention centres. As you said, your experience when you visited the unfortunate people at the detention centres was a memory not to be forgotten. Even though, they were provided with food, water, clothes and other necessities, there was a major element which was missing, an element that we might not live without. Hope, they needed hope that they’ll lead a better life, be safe with their friends and family, and most importantly, live a life surviving on also peace and enjoyment.

Australia is believed to be a safe country. Many have come here to stay here permanently, but as the years go by the rules change. Kevin Rudd, the current Prime Minister has made an important rule. “As of today asylum seekers who come here by boat without a visa will never be settled in Australia” The quote from the Labor Prime Minister means that he has decided to go against asylum seekers.

This made me think about the rights we all have, and how companies, schools and communities around the world try to get the best out of us. Someone might have the luxury and the fame, but what is more important, is for all individuals to protect their own human rights.

By Ramya

I would like to thank you immensely for your lecture on human rights. Your talk on human rights was very inspiring as you and your family had been through freedom issues. I am glad you came in to talk about this subject as I never really thought much about this topic before.

I believe the start of your lecture was very moving as it was your family history. You mentioned you were from Poland and you were born just at the end of World War II. You interlinked your family history with human rights and stated that during World War II Hitler took no notice of anyone’s human rights. You also mentioned that the Jews were killed for no reason. You stated that before war started, Poland had thirty million citizens and after war there were twenty one million. You told us it was because people were taken out of Poland if they weren’t right. After the war, they didn’t want to go back because they thought it might not be safe.

During your visit you asked us a question, who do you look up to. Many people said sporting stars. But I noticed you were aiming for someone like Martin Luther King or Margaret Thatcher; someone who has changed the world.

You also stated that you worked in politics for a while. You said that Australia had four Human Right laws the two I remember were freedom of movement of states, the government cannot change any bodies religion. It thought there would be many more, but there wasn’t.

During the lecture you mentioned the First Fleet. You said that on the boats there were one hundred and eighty women and fifteen hundred men. Only half of the people who arrived were criminals, the other half being officials like police or doctors.

Your lecture was very intriguing. I learnt a great deal about Human Rights. We also learnt about the history of Canberra.

Thankyou immensely, Alexia

Thank You for you amazing lecture on human rights. Your story about your town’s history in Poland was heart touching. The issue of asylum seekers remains a major problem and you helped us understand it, and I believe at least some of us will try to help fix the problem.

How Human Rights were created is an interesting story. You told us that they were created by the United Nations. I thought it was fascinating how Hitler thought that the Poles were not normal humans and the Jewish non-human.

You taught us how Asylum Seekers involve Human Rights issue. How the asylum seekers were unfairly treated in their own country was appalling. I think most of us understand this problem and would at least acknowledge that these people need help. They have the right to be assessed in this country.

Without Human Rights, I cannot even imagine what the world would be like today. The emotional and physical impact of war can be devastating. Their position highlights the fact that we must do something about their problem.

Thank you for the lecture. It was an enlightening experience for us all. The amount of detail you put into your work and the effort you put into lecturing us is outstanding. You could easily be on one of the best lecturers I have had this year. Thank you for spending your precious time with us. William

Thankyou for the lecture on Human Rights. You have opened my eyes giving me a real insight to this life as we know it. I have learnt that we are all equal and have the same rights We are all the same, we all populate this planet, we all need food and water to survive, we all live and we all die. But yet why do so many people treat others differently because of the colour of their skin and the accent of their voice. In World War II, three million worshippers of Judaism, were killed! Adolf Hitler (leader of Germany) declared the Jews were non-human. Adolf saw a Germans blood becoming impure if they were surrounded by Jews. For Germany, he was a hero, but others saw him otherwise. After this tragic event human rights was implemented so no needless violence or killing took place.

Thankyou with this, I have indeed become a better person. Sincerely, Paaras

I am inspired by the way that you thoughtfully talked about our rights and how we should step up and not be afraid to declare anything at all. The thing that caught my ear, was your accent, at first some people thought that you were Russian or German but when you told us, it was a surprise. I liked the way you talked about the First Fleet who came to Australia in 1788. The thing that I didn’t know about the ship is how many people were it. I was thinking there would be around 300 to 400 people. Everyone was waiting to know the answer and then…….1500 people, I thought that you were joking at first! I was thinking about how large the ship had to have been. But even more amazingly, there were only 180 women and 1320 men. A fact that you told us is that Human Rights didn’t exist in its current form until the Second World War ended.

I have seen the name Anna Frank on a book somewhere, but I have never actually read it. Yesterday, I found out that she wanted to help everyone who was getting killed. At the end they found her family hiding and took them and the Christians who were helping her. I don’t exactly know what happened after that, but I do know that she was fifteen when she wrote the diary. I was most interested in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. The worst part of the whole bombing was that 140000 people died, 80000 from the explosion and 60000 from radiation. 30000 were injured, It happened on a sunny morning. Two days later, the second bomb was dropped, after that the Japanese surrendered. The main meaning of this topic is that we all have common values on which we have to agree on.

Thank You, Miki

Thank you for coming in to our class and enlightening us about Human Rights. As soon as I got home I went on the computer and looked up some famous people who had to do with rights. Here are a few examples, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ruby Bridges and Rosa Parks, just to name a few, but my favourite the females Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), Margret thatcher, Emily Pankhurst (1858-1928) and Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906). The latter were famous females who fought for equal female rights.

You asked us about the Asylum Seekers. I think refugees should get the same rights as we do. The reason I like your presentation so much is that I like studying Human Rights. Back in the olden days, males and females did not have equal rights.

In conclusion, I absolutely loved your presentation and thank you once again for giving all the knowledge we need to know about Human Rights. Hailee

Your exhilarating voice helped me to think more deeply about us as humans and how we have not only freedom, but also rights. You have presented an awe-inspiring speech that I found very up lifting and heart touching. “I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master, but I would rather have the full menu of human rights”, is a wonderful saying that I have always lived by.

“All human beings are born [free](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/) and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”. (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>\)This is the first article from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I have realised that I knew this creed before, but only after your lecture did I truly understand the actual definition. As soon as we are born we have freedom. Not one of us is different, even if we have a different skin tone or different face shape, we should be regarded equal and have the right to be treated the same.

Asylum Seekers are people who should have the right to escape from their dangerous inhumane countries that they live in. Kevin Rudd, the new PM has made a law that asylum seekers who try to come to Australia with no visa will never get settled here. Why can people come to Australia on plane without a visa, but people who do not have a visa and come on a boat cannot stay. Everyone has a right to life, to escape from all their worries and all the dangers they face.

One article that I found very important was “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”. In my point of view this means that everyone has a right to live, a right for life, a right for joy and opportunities. We have all came on this earth for a reason and no one in this world can take that from us. We all play a very important part in people’s history and fortunes.

Human rights should be something we all share. It is about recognising the value and dignity of people around us. In learning about Human Rights, we learn about ideas of respect, fairness, justice and equality. We learn about standing up for our own rights and about our responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Human Rights recognises the inherent value of each person, regardless of background, where we live, what we look like, what we think or what we believe. It is based on principles of dignity, equality and mutual respect, which are shared across cultures, religions and philosophies. It is about being treated fairly, and having the ability to make genuine choices in our daily lives. Respect for Human Rights is the cornerstone of strong communities in which everyone can make a contribution and feel included.

You have taught me that these Human Rights are the same for all people everywhere – male and female, young and old, rich and poor, regardless of our background, where we live, what we think or what we believe. This is what makes human rights ‘universal'.

From Naomi

You came to our class with a joyful smile and started the lecture by introducing who you are as a person and the history of your elders. You first told us that your parents were Polish and they had to abscond because of Hitler and the Nazis. However, the Jews had to be executed in several concentration camps and were tortured and therefore they didn’t have the opportunity to escape. Several million Jews died and this was one of the worst events that occurred in history. You then told us about the other countries who did not have personal freedom and were consequently restricted from having are own rights. If you did survive in World War II, you were most likely to find your house destroyed with all the goods taken or damaged.

Because of you, S3D has also learnt about the history of Australia and a few facts that I will name. This includes that the British Parliament first ruled Australia in 1788, with 1500 men and women arrived in Botany Bay with half as convicts and the other, as officials and security. When the second ship arrived, it came with a two years supply of food that everyone had to share, though after a couple of months, they were in an unfortunate situation with inadequate supplies. I was surprised that some of the convicts actually became some renowned leaders. The Human Rights laws began after World War II and I am glad that such a rule occurred. Some famous people involved in human rights would be Anne Frank, Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King Jr and John Kennedy. These are courageous people who will be remembered for several generations for the deeds that they did.

 I am glad that the laws will be made by parliament and not only one person because like you said, “ If there’s only one horse in a race then only that horse will win”. What I mean is, that if only one person is in charge, even if they make a mistake no one is there to correct them.

Your final point was about Asylum Seekers. You told us about how you went to Christmas Island and heard the miserable stories the people had to tell and were shocked by the perilous conditions to which they were subjected. Recently on the news I have heard Kevin Rudd is changing the laws for asylum seekers and they are now being sent to Papa New Guinea.

I am glad now that the world is more of a safe as Human Rights campaigners have contributed to making the world a better place.

I thank you thoroughly for visiting our class, as we learnt a great deal of history and now understand how crucial it is to have human rights. “The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened” (John F Kennedy).

Aryan

Your lecture on Human Rights was amazing. I never knew that the Australian Constitution does not have the Bill of Rights. I was astounded to hear this, as I thought any Constitution should have the Bill of Rights.

I enjoyed the way you opened up by talking a bit about your family history and World War II, as I am very fond of history. I also liked listening about how Kevin Rudd made the law that all refugees travelling to Australia are going to be sent to Papua New Guinea. I totally agree with that, as it could possibly make the refugees not get on the boat in the first place and therefore stop business for the people smugglers. This is also appalling because the refugees have the right to get an Australian citizenship.

You also said that the government/monarch cannot create a religion. I also agree with that statement as one king of England a long time ago wanted a divorce from his wife (well, one of them). He asked the Pope, but the pope said no. So the king created the “Church of England” religion just to get a divorce, which led to confusion for the people on which religion to follow, because if they followed the wrong one, they would be branded a “Heretic” and be killed.

I do believe that everyone should have the same rights no matter what skin colour, religion or culture they are. There is one last question that no-one has answered yet, “why are the refugees coming on boats being taken to detention centres and the refugees coming on planes being accepted in Australia as soon as they land?”

Nik.N

Before you stepped into the class room and gave us a splendid lecture, I did not know how important Human Rights were, and that without it, the world would be a different place, as there would be poverty and other world-wide issues. Asylum seekers is a problem Australia is facing today but the government cannot just make them go back. They have the right to flee their country.

Your lecture was very informative, and at the same time interesting. It was amazing how you captivated the class by using history as a point in time where there weren’t any Human Rights. You also told us about your family’s history and how World War II had impacted your family’s life style because they were Polish, and also how many families became refugees by going to other countries like Australia and America. You explained to us, that even very important people like the king or government have made mistakes, and had payed the price for it.

Thank you for your marvellous lecture and thanks to you I have significantly improved my understanding of Human Rights and I am grateful that you had taken the time to come to our school. From this lecture I have learnt that even if we all have a different culture or colour we all must be treated the same.

Sincerely Kevin

As you began to speak, I heard an accent that I was not very familiar with. Then you told us that you came from Poland. When you told us about Hitler and your family’s experiences, I was captivated and ready to begin.

When you explained to us about the slaughter houses that were made to kill the Jews and the way the Germans treated them, I knew that the books that I had read were not just stories, they were real life with real people. This made me feel for them even more. It was a very interesting topic to discuss.

When you told us to think about someone who inspires us, I thought about it for a great deal of time. If you think of people like Martin Luther King or Nelson Mandela, they fought for what they believe in and gradually made the world better.

The First Feet arrived in 1788. There were only one hundred and ninety women out of one thousand five hundred people; that is less than ten per cent. I believe because of the number of women the men, would have over powered them and the women would have had less say in legal matters.

There were not only British people, there were also Aboriginals. They lived in Australia long before the British people but when the First Fleet arrived. They had been shifted onto a smaller amount of land. That was a breach of Human Rights because the Aborigines had a right to walk around freely but instead were pushed into a corner. It is just like a child playing with one hundred lego pieces then another child comes along and takes ninety five from them away. Either way you put it, it is not fair.

The Australian Government negotiates plenty, if they did not why would so many people want to come here. So if there was a crime that was committed the person would be punished a reasonable amount. Not like in some foreign countries. But the main reason people would like to come here is because there are Human Rights. Most refugees had fled from their countries because of maltreatment.

When refugees come to Australia it is not fair for them to be sent to Papa New Guinea, most of them have given up everything they have. The topic Human Rights covers a wide range of subjects and I am very pleased to have come to this lecture. It made me feel more grateful for having freedom and an education. Thank you for the amazing lecture.

Diana

To have rights is what we should value, not take for granted. Human Rights is a universal standard. It is a component of every religion and every civilization. A right is not what someone gives you; it’s what no one can take from you. Human Rights belong to everyone; the same as every nationality has their own common values. “Life is not a matter of place, things or comfort; rather, it concerns the basic human rights of family, country, justice and human dignity.” Many people have fought because of their own beliefs of a better country, a better world, to provide the right for all of humanity. As Jimmy Carter once quoted, “For this generation, ours, life is nuclear survival, liberty is human rights, the pursuit of happiness is a planet whose resources are devoted to the physical and spiritual nourishment of its inhabitants.” Back in early Australian history, personal freedoms were restricted. Before World War II, people of different nationalities were treated without equality. Then after this period, Human Rights were created by the National Government.

This inspirational lecture has inspired me to think about the changes that we can achieve as a society, if we work together as a nation and continue to fight for our rights. [We should stand for simple justice, equal opportunity and human rights. These are the few of indispensable elements in a democratic society which](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/h/helensuzma323835.html) are worth fighting for. Human rights will be a powerful force if it is understood as the spontaneous manifestation of internalized values.

Ennabel,

Your lecture on Human Rights was inspiring as well as informative. The story of your many years of a harsh and tough life in Poland was hard to believe as you do not look as if you have lived a childhood like that.

You gave examples of many great heroes who have drastically changed the world such as: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, John Kennedy and Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela for example was sent to jail for what he believed was right. He had no rights at all, but he kept trying no matter what happened. This shows how determined he was to have his rights as an African American.

Asylum Seekers do not have any rights at all and Kevin Rudd has made it worse by sending any Asylum seekers who arrive at Australia from now on to Papua New Guinea. This not at all fair as ninety per cent of the time the refugees are coming to Australia to seek a better future, where as, if they are sent to Papua New Guinea they will probably end up in the same situation as they were in at their previous country.

Honestly, I did not know Human Rights started after World War two until you came and was surprised as it seems as though Human Rights started many years ago.

I have learnt from your lecture to be grateful for the freedom we have and try to bring Human Rights into countries which are still struggling to survive. Overall the lecture was great and I hope to one day change the world and be memorable.

Yours Sincerely,

Sanjana

Thank you for coming to our class to teach us about the intriguing topic of Human Rights. I truly enjoyed your talk. It was very informative and you always kept us guessing because of the questions you asked us. I wish you could come back to our class some other time.

I always thought that, as Australians, we would have had a lot of rights because we are a democratic society, but I was wrong! I was surprised when you said we only have about four rights.

When you mentioned WW II, I instantly looked at Nik because he knows so much about all the wars. I thought it was a little strange how if someone was injured on the battlefield, they would be carried off to the hospital and the opposition wouldn’t kill the people carrying them. But then again, the code of chivalry might have still been around then.

When you said there were three things around this date, I was surprised. When you mentioned the bombings I was a little confused so I looked it up. An American pilot dropped the bomb ‘Little Boy’ on Hiroshima on the 6th of August and the bomb ‘Fat Man’ on Nagasaki on the 9th of August, which was the day before my birthday because mines on the 10th.

I think Asylum Seekers should be treated fairly because if they are desperate enough to travel on a boat in poor condition to arrive in a country that they’ve never been in before, there’s obviously a reason for it. I don’t really agree with Kevin Rudd’s decision to transport all Asylum Seekers without a visa to PNG instead of welcoming them to our country. Asylum Seekers had the right to travel to another country which Kevin Rudd took away from them.

I have now realised how easy we have it here in Australia compared to the other countries that have no rights at all. Once again, thank you for coming to our class to lecture us about Human Rights.

Sincerely Ben

I would like to thank you for coming to visit our class at Kingswood Public School. I enjoyed it and I know the class did too. Some of the things I learnt were how Australia is different because of the way we settled, how one governor wanted money fast and borrowed from a wealthy man, ordered stuff from overseas and on the way to Australia, the boat actually sunk. It was probably my favourite part learning about so many new things. One other thing that I never knew was the first bomb, it landed on the 6th of August and killed 80,000 people, injured 35,000 and 62,000 buildings of the 90,000 that were there got destroyed when the bomb went off.

In the passport of Human Rights you passed around, the first words I saw were ‘everyone has a right to a nationality’. I also saw ‘everybody is equal’. I think those sentences definitely define what your lecture was about.

Refugees have every right to come to Australia and have a better future. Kevin Rudd has made a new law, any refugees that come to Australia by boat without a visa will be sent to Papua New Guinea immediately. Not only do they risk their lives to come here but when they finally do finish their journey Australians do not welcome them here.

Once again, I would like to thank you for coming to do your wonderful lecture on Human Rights.

Sarrah

I am glad that my teacher asked you to come to our class and you accepted the offer, because when you shared your knowledge and memories. We were all fixated on you. I feel as though you are an inspiration not only because of what you have done and achieved but because of what you have personally been through including the war and going through the refugee camps.

I do not know about all of my class but I am sure the majority of them enjoyed the slice of history that was inserted into your presentation. For example when you mentioned that the United States dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and how it killed 80 000 people, 35 000 were injured and another 60 000 died later after being exposed to radiation. There were 28 000 buildings that were left out of the 90 000 that were originally there. When you later talked about the refugee camps, I was astounded at the conditions you were describing. What really made me think about how lucky I am, especially when you said the longest period of time a child was in a refugee camp which was 5 years 5 months and 28 days.

The passport of Human Rights that was passed around was very intriguing. I read a few articles but the one that intersected me the most was Article 23. This is what it read; “everyone has the right to work, to good working conditions to equal pay for equal work, to form and join a union.” Now when you think back to approximately the early 19 hundreds when women didn’t have the right to work or vote and when they finally did get the right to work they were paid less than men even though they were doing the same jobs. That right is a piece of evidence that the world is progressing, even if it is just bit by bit.

As for an answer to the refugee problem, I personally think that the refugees have been through a very rough time.. I have learnt from my grandmother’s memories and stories that a refugee camp is a horrible place and no one should have to be subjected to that sort life style for any part of their life.

Thank you, Amy

I was intrigued by what you had to say about the history of World War II and you got me thinking about the bombing of Japan and you got me to look at the fact that on the 6/8/2013 is not only my birthday but will be the 69th anniversary of the bombing.

I was particularly interested in what you had to say about the history of Australia and especially how you told us about the First Settlers had to survive for two years with very little food until the Second Fleet arrived with more food for the Colony.

A question you asked us during your lecture was about the refugees coming to Australia, I believe they should be allowed to come into Australia, as they have a right to take refuge as of their Human Rights. The refugees are coming to Australia for protection and refuge but instead the government is sending them to Papua New Guinea which is said to be worse than the detention centres on Christmas Island.

 Thank you once more for your amazing lecture on Human Rights. I truly wish that we had had more time so you could tell us more about Human Rights. Thank you, Ethan

Dear Professor Sev Ozdowski

 I would like to give you a much deserved applause and thank you as you have, you could say, “been to the mountain top” (Martin Luther-King, who gained to black-Americans their rights. You really do deserve a great applause and medal.

You taught me a lot about human rights yesterday and I am very happy indeed that I could witness your lecture and hope you teach people in this class next year and hope they appreciate you also.

My opinion on your question should refugees be allowed to stay in Australia is yes, as they are escaping a worse past and being sent back is a stupid idea as they risk their lives only to be sent back to where they came from and classed as a criminal.

Jack

Dear Professor Sev Ozdowski,

To be honest, I didn’t think that this lecture would be any good, as I thought I did not like Human Rights. Your stunning lecture was attention grabbing and was greatly assisted by your strong, deep voice. Astonishingly, tens of millions of Jews were killed in the terrifying Second World War. Towns, cities, almost entire countries were annihilated.

You opened my mind to a whole new world I thought never seemed possible. You, with tens of thousands of other people, sought refuge in Australia to flee from the seemingly everlasting poverty in the beautiful country of Poland. Astoundingly, one thousand, five hundred people got here on the First Fleet and only one hundred and ninety were women. Only half of the one thousand, five hundred people were convicts and the rest were the crew and government officials.

The First Fleet were living on rations for an incredible two years. If the Second Fleet did not arrive on time, they would have all starved to death. Rights are like one’s age; it cannot be taken away. The Germans made slaughter houses killing millions of Jews, this has made society realise how bad the situation really was, indicating how we have the ability to look after each other as human beings. NO government can take rights away from you; they are yours, and will always be yours.

On the 6th of August 1945 one of the most devastating incidents to ever happen occurred. The Americans had dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima instantly killing eighty thousand people, while injuring a further thirty-five thousand, and leaving another sixty thousand to die from radiation. Before the bomb, there were over ninety thousands houses, and after, only twenty thousand were left standing. The horrifying bomb had affected over two hundred thousand people in total. Surprisingly, the explosion measured seven point eight on the Richter’s Scale.

I believe that ‘Asylum Seekers’ should be allowed to seek refuge in Australia; many could say that what Kevin Rudd has done is utterly against Human Rights, and is almost as bad as the holocaust. But others may comment that Human Rights is the ability to assess these individuals for their right to be in Australia. President Nixon was the first president to resign as he planted listening devices in democratic places to gather information. News gets around; these actions were giving America a bad name.

All of these somewhat random stories that have been told relate in one way or another to Human Rights, whether it’s discrimination, or someone judging another one’s religion. Thank you for a surprisingly marvellous time with you, I am deeply looking forward to the next time I will be fortunate enough to stumble across you again.

Nicholas

Professor Ozdowski,

I found myself deeply impressed with your lecture from the moment it began. You perfected your knowledge of Human Rights as you described a life without it. When your speech went through the extensive and sorrowful world of poverty, it became clear why visiting so many detention centres was hell for you.

We are equal; yet Government has led us to fighting, begging, staving and struggling. So as much as Government solves problems, like disorganisation and obvious disorder, it simply creates power struggles (so many power struggles)! All solutions cause problems; this is ever so clear.

Now going back, you gave us a brief life story of yourself; very emotional, true, deep and individual. But if you think about it, it’s not. It’s not individual, that’s the worst part. Your early life matches so many others. So many others fled from their country in search of a safe place.

Thinking about poverty; the Asylum Seekers come to mind. Ah, the world revolves around politics. A new Prime Minister could really cause rebellions. Kevin Rudd has made a pretty shocking announcement; Asylum Seekers will have no chance of settling in AUS! Wow, that’s unfair really. In fact it’s like trolling! But I guess Australia has its own problems! However, completely banishing refugees and sending them to Papua New Guinea is ultimately harsh. Kevin Rudd was stupid to make that one of his first laws.

Individual governments have once again attempted to solve a world-wide problem: an International Agreement is the perfect solution. An agreement to equal and proper rights for all is absolutely perfect.

Some people argue that war is natural; but some animals eat their young; we do not do this! We must right the wrongs, not wrong the rights. Not even mildly solve the average problems! Alas, disorganisation eludes me. This shows we need some sort of governing or leadership. The world is a paradox; but once we unite and think, it will become a simple equation. We will find the missing number.

However, we all know that solutions cause problems. So will Human Rights bring another problem that clouds the missing number that we all desire?

Time will tell!

Jimmy

Your lecture was elaborate, yet simple. The stars shine almost as brightly as my mind that has been ignited with inspiration and information bestowed upon me from you and your lecture.

You obviously had a difficult beginning, as though a nervous reader was reading your elaborate book of life, but after a while this nervous reader became confident and your life just got better. I loved the historical information that you told me about your homeland (Poland) and World War II and Hitler. You told me many things that I never knew such as; Poland was a multicultural society and how tough it was not only duringthe war but after the war. I immediately felt sympathetic for you and your family. A question that I did not get to ask was who inspired you` to do what you did? Was it a family member or was it the impact that the war had on your life?

You asked who our role models were. You told us some of your role models and it made me think; who is my role model? Who inspired me to be me? Who inspired me to do what I do? Why that specific person? So many thoughts flooded my mind.

I admire these people for reasons that vary quite a bit. For instance, I admire Mahatma Ghandi because he was a peacemaker and a fighter for Human Rights even though he did not fight for the whole world. He inspired Martin Luther King Jr. to support the black Americans and I am sure he inspired many others as well. I admire him because not only did he support his people with non-violent actions but, he also displayed a certain passion towards what he was doing. He also proved that you do not have to be a fighteror a peacemaker, but, you can be both. Through observing my list and the choices that I have made that involved my role models made me realise the answer to your question. Everyone is my role model! Everyone that I meet or have read about has had a positive or negative impact on me.

As you moved on, you told us some historical information about Human Rights in Australia. You said that our Australian Constitution document is in London. This did not surprise me as I believe that if England founded Australia shouldn’t they legally own some of our historical documents in their Archives? Nevertheless, I was still intrigued. I had no idea that our Constitution did not have many Human Rights included I thought Australia was a fairer country.

I never knew anything about the First Fleet until Year Four, so I do not know as much as others. When you said that the convicts were as important as the officials, I was amazed at how someone so common could so quickly change to such a high ranking. I loved the story you told me about the merchant, Campbell, and his servant, Ainslie, as it reminded me of the importance of thinking on your feet. I did not know about Anna Frank until you told me about her but, I was intrigued no doubt! The significance of this ordinary person was astounding!

You asked us what our opinion was on Asylum Seekers. I think that they can come to Australia as long as they obey and respect the laws of Australia and the many cultures within it. Australia is meant to be harmonious but, with the Asylum Seekers fighting it is more like a battleground. I believe that the Asylum Seekers have started to take our generosity for granted but, I also believe that they should not be treated as criminals.

I thank you immensely for your lecture on Human Rights and I hope that I have written enough to show you that what you have said has opened a new doorway for me; a doorway that I know will help me from here and beyond.

Angel