

- Christian beliefs about the dignity of human life and agape in action
- An example of conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country
- Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism

### Key Concepts

<b>Censorship</b>	Limiting access to materials considered offensive or a threat.	<b>Extremism</b>	Believing and supporting ideas far from that which people consider reasonable.
<b>Discrimination</b>	Treating people differently.	<b>Prejudice</b>	Pre-judging people.
<b>Personal Conviction</b>	What a person strongly believes.	<b>Human Rights</b>	Basic entitlements of all human rights.
<b>Relative and Absolute Poverty</b>	<b>Relative</b> poverty is in relation to standards of where the person lives. <b>Absolute</b> poverty is acute state of deprivation.	<b>Social Justice</b>	Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity.

### Christian beliefs toward the dignity of human life

Humans are created by **God** and in the **image of God (Genesis 1)** and therefore all **life is sacred**. **Jesus** taught that all life should be valued, e.g. the story of the **Good Samaritan**, and his compassionate actions showed that all humans should be respected.

### Agape in action

Everyone should be treated with selfless and **unconditional love - agape**. Christian **charities**, e.g. **Tearfund** and **Christian Aid**, show **agape** in action as they practice the command of **Jesus** to **'love your neighbour'**. Both charities work in many countries to help when natural disasters occur or on long-term projects. Many Christians have shown **agape** through their work for others e.g. **Martin Luther King, Oscar Romero**.

### An example of conflict between personal conflict and laws of a country

An example might include **Oscar Romero** who was a **priest** in El Salvador and spoke out against **injustices** and corruption to protect the poor. He believed it was important to follow the teachings of **Jesus** and that all humans have a **dignity of life**. He held meetings that were **censored** by the government. He was killed in his **chapel** when **celebrating mass**. Other examples might include the work of **Martin Luther King** to protest against **segregation** of races in America.

### Censorship, freedom of religious expression and religious extremism

The **UN Declaration of Human Rights** states everyone has the **right to freedom of opinion and expression**. This creates a difficult balance between **censorship** (used to suppress information or to protect) and **freedom of expression**. People express their religion in many ways e.g. what they wear, what they read, where they **worship** etc. **Religious extremism** is when actions might harm others. Often **religious extremism** is a result of believers **interpreting religious scriptures literally**.

### Key Sources of Authority

- **'So God created mankind in his own image' - Genesis 1:26-27**
- **Conscience and personal conviction**
- **UN Declaration of Human Rights**
- **Teachings and practices of Jesus**

### Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity).

Consider how...

- **examples of conflict between personal conflict and laws of a country relate to *persecution of Christians* (Component 2)**
- **dignity of life relates to *sanctity of life* (Component 1).**

### Exam Practice

- **Describe one example of when personal conviction has conflicted with laws of a country. (5)**
- **Describe why some religious believers agree with censorship. (5)**