



Hsa Thoo Lei

Teacher's background info

The Moe River divides Mae Sot in Thailand from Burma. Many Burmese and ethnic Karen people cross this river to enter into Thailand illegally. The Karen people have been oppressed politically, economically and educationally by the military junta in Burma. Many people cross the river on tyre inner tubes and will stay in refugee camps or walk through the jungle avoiding landmines. Many of the children have crossed the border into Thailand illegally. They are at risk of being caught by the police and being sent back to Burma or being used as porters for the army. However once they have reached the refugee camps life is far from easy. Many do not have freedom to leave the camps, they find it difficult to find work and if they do it is arduous and badly paid. All are at constant risk of being arrested by the immigration police.

The following lesson is designed to inform students of such children living illegally in Mae Sot. The lesson plan has been written for the following units for citizenship:

Unit 3 Human Rights Ks3

Unit 1 Human Rights Ks4

Refugee Week.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

Understand human rights are meant for everyone without exception. They are universal concepts that should be universally applied.

They cite examples from everyday life where the rights of individuals and groups compete and/or conflict and realise that not all human rights are absolute.

Resources 'Life Without Rights' and Film clip can be found here;

<http://www.thaichildrenstrust.org.uk/getinvolved/hsa-thoo-lei-lesson-plan>

Introduction

Explain that every person is entitled to certain rights — simply by the fact that they are a human being. They are 'rights' because they are things you are allowed to be, to do or to have. These rights are there for your protection against people who might want to harm or hurt you. They are also there to help us get along with each other and live in peace. There are thirty basic Human Rights.



Activity

1. Ask students to think about their lives. What Rights do they have? Write the answers on the board. If necessary clarify the Rights from laws or responsibilities.
2. Explain briefly about the children they will hear about today and then show the film clip here:

<http://www.thaichildrenstrust.org.uk/getinvolved/hsa-thoo-lei-lesson-plan>

3. Give each student a copy of 'Life Without Rights' Explain that it is written by a student from the school they have seen in the DVD.
4. From reading the text: List two columns - 1. What Rights can be identified that these children do have. 2. What Rights Don't they have. Discuss.

Plenary.

What are the important things that children at Hsa Thoo Lei School have to think about in their everyday life?

How do these compare with what we have to consider?

How could you help these children?

For further lesson plans and resources, or to subscribe to our school newsletter please contact rflanagan@thaichildrenstrust.org.uk