



JUST AND PEACEFUL WORLD

UPHOLD OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, GLOBALLY

We seek to act with courage and conviction to build a just and peaceful world. To train up global citizens who uphold human rights everywhere, acting in the best interests of all people and the planet. Our desire is to show Christ's love in action, in a world that is groaning for redemption.



OUR HOPES

- That all people around the world will receive the respect they are afforded as human beings and image bearers of God.
- That as a nation, Australia will stand with the oppressed and advocate for a more just world.
- That foreign aid will be generous and directed to both the acute and chronic humanitarian crises in our world.
- That governments and relief agencies will collaborate and discover creative means of addressing the needs of our global community.
- That we will respond with compassion, empathy, kindness, and generosity to the people and groups who are marginalised and persecuted in our world.
- That graduates from our schools will campaign at home, and work abroad, for a more just and peaceful world.

A BIBLICAL MANDATE

- While Genesis 1 and 2 offer a vision of right relationships – with God, with others, and with creation – the Fall in Genesis 3 fractures those relationships, and the created order suffers a loss of shalom. Envy, violence, hatred, injustice, and death enter the story.
- The Bible is an account of real human history and records the injustice and persecution people suffer at the hands of others, including the people of God. The Old Testament prophets continue to call Israel back to the covenant, to justice and righteousness (Amos 5:24), including for those from other nations (Jeremiah 7:5-7; Zechariah 7:9-10).
- Jesus comes to inaugurate God’s Kingdom; sent by God to “proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour” (Luke 4:18-19). But God’s Kingdom is both now and not yet. The hope of justice and peace are present in the coming of Jesus, and yet the whole of the creation is still groaning for redemption (Romans 8:22).
- Jesus invites his followers to join him on his mission for justice and peace: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21).

- Shalom is the telos of our story, a vision of justice, peace, and flourishing relationships. Our Christian hope is that Jesus will return and heal all that is wrong with the world. When we as God’s people, living in God’s restored creation, will experience true shalom (Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-5).

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

The Bible tells that we are created in the image of God, and that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Despite this, throughout history people have faced persecution at the hands of others, and been treated as non-persons because of their sex, colour, race, and religion. Since the Fall, human institutions, systems, and ideologies have at times fostered sexism, racism, exploitation, and even genocide. People have been denied their rights to freedom, equal treatment, and education.

The Kingdom of God is good news for a broken and hurting world. In God’s Kingdom there is no unbalanced power relationships, there is no exploitation or oppression, there is no inequality or unjust discrimination, “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). As God’s people we are called to follow the example of Jesus in standing with the voiceless, the persecuted, the victims of global violence and tyrannical governments; to be agents of justice, reconciliation and shalom as we anticipate God’s new creation.

FOR DISCUSSION

- How can our school community better understand and raise awareness of the human rights issues of our day?
- Do we create opportunities for our students to respond to global issues of injustice, exploitation, and persecution?
- How can our school community better advocate – with governments, and in our community – for those suffering a loss of their basic human rights?
- How might our school community act with courage, and live as agents of shalom, in a complex and broken world?