

# YEAR 8 ETHICS UNIT 1: INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS

## Overview

This unit considers inspirational leaders and their work – Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama and Aung San Suu Kyi and others. This unit is aimed at developing pupil knowledge and understanding of the issues these people were involved with and for pupils to reflect on the role played by them.

## Good and inspirational leaders

What qualities do you think a good or inspirational leader needs to have?  
What sort of a person should they be?

### **Characteristics of Inspiring Leaders**

They express unerring positivity  
They can find the bright side of any issue  
They are grateful to their team  
They have a crystal clear vision for the future  
They listen  
They communicate with clarity  
They are trustworthy  
They are passionate  
They have faith in themselves and in others



## Mahatma Gandhi

Who was Mahatma Gandhi?  
What did Mahatma Gandhi do?  
Was Gandhi an inspirational leader?



Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869 – 1948) was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist, and political ethicist, who employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaigns for the rights of Indians in South Africa and later, more importantly, India's independence from British Rule, and in turn inspire movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. He was assassinated in 1948.

## Religious Beliefs and leaders

Does religious belief affect action?  
Would these people be leaders without their religious beliefs?

**The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama**



**Desmond Tutu**



**Aung San Suu Kyi**



**Nicky Cruz**



**Oscar Romero**



The top three are also Nobel Prize laureates, having each received the Nobel Prize for Peace for the work they did in campaigning for peace in their respective countries.

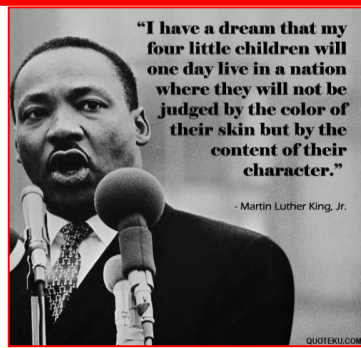
## Key Words

Inspiration/Inspirational  
Spiritual  
Religious  
Influential  
Nobel  
Buddhism/Buddhist  
Archbishop  
Belief/Believe  
Gandhi  
Non-violence  
Ahimsa  
Co-operation  
Segregation  
Prejudice  
Discrimination  
Non-violence  
Boycott  
Compassion  
Fellowship  
Teresa  
Calcutta  
Poverty  
Malala Yousafzai  
Taliban  
Education  
Universal  
Declaration  
Human  
Rights  
Responsibilities

## Martin Luther King

Who was Martin Luther King?  
What was his motivation?  
Was he an inspirational leader?

Martin Luther King Jr (1929 – 1968) was an American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the Black American Civil Rights Movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. In his campaigning, MLK advocated that non-violent methods be used by his supporters, echoing the methods of Mahatma Gandhi. MLK is also remembered for giving many speeches, including his 'I have a dream' speech in 1963. MLK became the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.



## Malala Yousafzai

Who is Malala Yousafzai?  
What has she done?  
Is Malala an inspirational leader?



Malala Yousafzai (b.1997) is a Pakistani education advocate who, at the age of 17 in 2014, became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize after surviving an assassination attempt by the Taliban. Malala became an advocate for girls' education when she herself was still a child, which resulted in the Muslim Taliban issuing a death threat against her because she spoke out about having an education. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Malala when she was traveling home from school. She survived and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. In 2013, she gave a speech to the United Nations and published her first book, *I Am Malala*. After she was shot, Malala was airlifted to a hospital in Birmingham to be treated. She has continued her education in the UK and is currently studying Philosophy and Ethics at Oxford University but continues to campaign for the rights of all to an education.

## Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Who was Mother Teresa?  
What did Mother Teresa do?  
How did she inspire others?



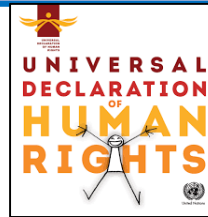
Mother Teresa (1910–1997) was a Roman Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and destitute around the world. She spent many years in Calcutta, India where she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation devoted to helping those in great need. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and became a symbol of charitable, selfless work. In 2016, Mother Teresa was canonised by the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Teresa.

## Human Rights

Do humans have rights? What is the UDHR?

What rights or freedoms do you have?  
Are your rights restricted if you have to seek permission from others?  
Are your rights restricted if you have to do things you don't want to do?

How has the work of the individuals covered in this unit linked to human rights?



## Who is the ultimate inspirational person?

Who do you think is the ultimate inspirational person in the world and why?

