



Scripture

Old Testament: "Practise honesty and integrity: rescue the man who has been wronged from the hands of his oppressor; do not exploit the stranger, the orphan, the widow; do no violence; shed no innocent blood." Jeremiah 22:3 from the Breviary.

New Testament: "To him who is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of, by means of the power working in us: to God be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for all time, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 from the Breviary.

Catechism

"Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbour. Justice towards God is called the 'virtue of religion'. Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regards to persons and to the common good. The just man, often mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, is distinguished by habitual right thinking and the uprightness of his conduct toward his neighbour." Catechism of the Catholic Church #1807

Comment

It could be argued that the conversation about human rights in many countries around the world, has a quasi 'post-modern' feel; the discussion may be about interpretations of human rights, rather than the human rights in themselves. Despite being outlined as a basic human right in the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, viz. Article 18, it is galling to see how little progress is being made in some countries where human rights, in particular religious freedom and freedom of worship, are frequently being transgressed. One could argue that where there is a systematic abuse of religious freedom, other human rights abuses, such as crimes against women and children, particularly in the case of abduction, forced conversion, forced marriage and rape of Pakistani Christian and Hindu girls, is to be found.

Organisation of the month

Aid To The Church In Need (ACN) is a Pontifical Foundation and a registered charity in England, Wales and Scotland, helps to raise awareness of the plight of those who are denied freedom of religion and worship and who will pay a high price for their fidelity to Christ and His Church. Visit www.acnuk.org to see how you can make a difference to the lives of our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ

Pray, Think, Act

Pray: that God the Father, through His Son Jesus Christ, may, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Mary Help of Christians bring about protection, freedom and consolation for Christians suffering for the Faith.

Think: about the primary and secondary effects of the persecution of Christians. How does Christian persecution affect you?

Act: Visit www.acnuk.org for more information about ways in which you can support its work and mission. A quick link to ACN's petition on Pakistan can also be found below, so please forward this link to like-minded contacts if possible.
<https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/pakistan-petition-2024/>

*"Do as much as you can. God will do what we ourselves cannot do."
St John Bosco, Letter to Cagliero, November 13, 1875*