

How I began to look at human rights in a new way...

When people think about human rights, a picture of large groups of Indigenous Australian or protesting women may come up in their mind. However, issues related to human rights can occur a lot at places like schools as well.

There is a boy in the school I go to. To put it nicely, he is not very popular among other students. In fact, almost every member in the school disliked him. Depending on who it is, they will either bully him, say things to put him off or completely ignore him. Personally, I had said some not very generous things to him a few times.

This boy is not a bad bully who treats everyone in an unpleasant way, nor is he a "Mr. Superior" who is so up himself that he ignores everyone. The thing that everyone dislikes about him is his personality- the way he throws annoying remarks and complaining words all the time. I had always thought that it was all right to treat him that way. "He deserves it," that was what I had always told myself when I saw him getting bullied or yelled at. That was until one day when my view towards this whole incident completely turned around...

I remember talking to a friend of mine, who is in his class. Slowly, she told me an event that took place in her class on that particular day.

As I was told, the class members in their class were assessing each other's projects. It was one of the major projects of the year and every mark counted. When her fellow classmates assessed that particular boy's project, most of them gave him a low C- or D. My friend said that the boy's project was good, and apart from her, only two other girls had given him a reasonable grading. The boy cried.

I listened to her story with surprise. I simply could not believe it! I never thought that the bullying would get that far! Then it dawned on me that he had never been treated in a way he should be.

Those students had completely ignored that boy's human rights. He is a human being, just like all of us. Therefore, he deserves to be treated equally. There is nothing wrong with disliking someone as it is just human nature, but to dislike someone does not mean that you have to treat him or her in a bad way. The people in this world just have to understand that everyone is different and that everyone should be accepted for who they are. That boy is no exceptions.

Overall I think the issues in human rights can extend far more than just the rights people can get from laws and regulations, whether it is regarding to nationality, gender or some other things. A different, but no less important type of human rights is how one should be treated by those around him or her.