

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH



# Why world leaders should always protect everyone's human rights



World Report 2024

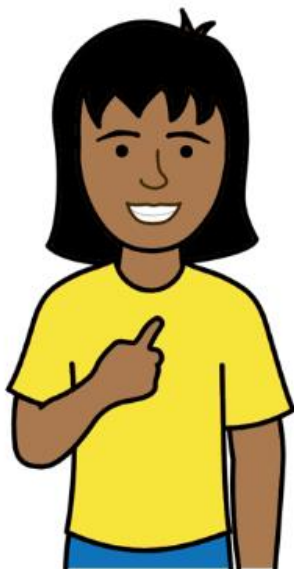
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## About us

We are called Human Rights Watch.



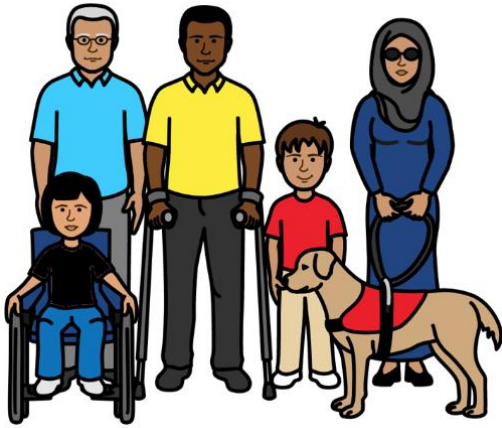
We work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their human rights.



Everyone has human rights.

For example, everyone has the right to:

- Be safe and be treated fairly
- Speak out and be heard
- Go to school or work.



## About this report

This report is about why leaders of the world should keep everyone's human rights safe at all times.



Leaders are the people who are in charge of the government.

They make big decisions for the country.



That means leaders should stand up for everyone's human rights. Not just the rights of some people.

That is because everyone's lives are important.

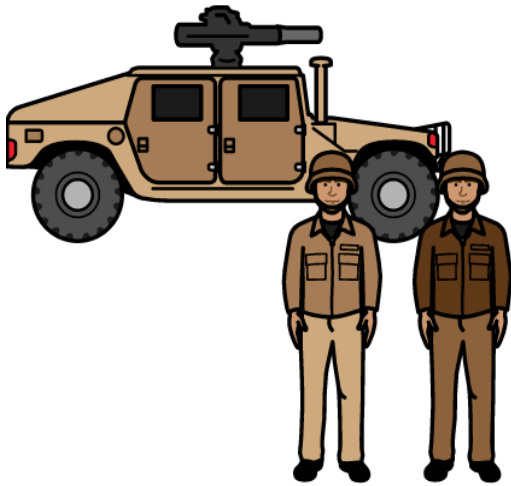


Leaders of countries often do bad things for people's human rights.

But a lot of good work has been done on human rights.

That shows what is possible and what should happen for everyone.

# What has happened with human rights around the world



There have been many big human rights problems in the world.

That includes wars in Israel and Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Many people have been hurt or killed in these wars.

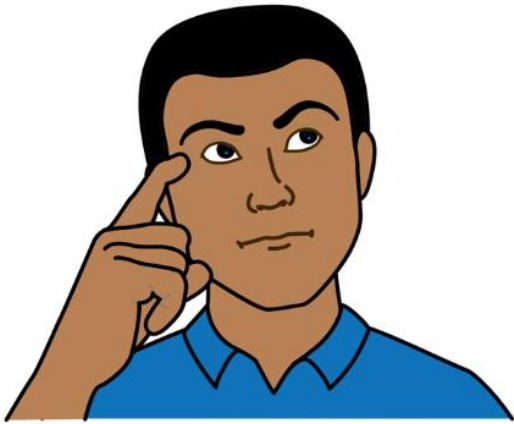


Some leaders have also tried to take people's rights away from them.

For example, the leaders of Afghanistan have made life much harder for women and girls.

They have stopped women and girls from doing many things like going to high school or university.

## Choosing which human rights to stand up for

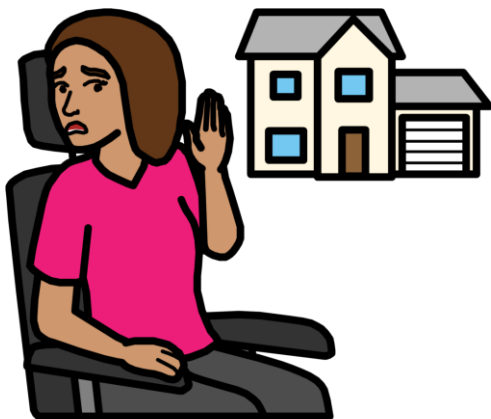


Leaders have spoken out about bad things that are happening in some parts of the world. But not in other parts of the world.



That makes it easier for certain leaders to do bad things to people.

And it makes it easier for them to do more bad things in the future.



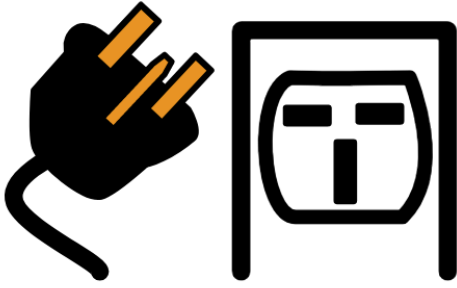
For example, very bad things have happened to people in Israel and Gaza.

There is a group in Gaza called Hamas.

Hamas and some other groups shot and killed many people in Israel.

They also took many people from their homes and kept them in Gaza away from their families.

That includes children, people with disabilities and older people.



Because of what Hamas did, Israel then stopped people in Gaza from getting things they need to live.

Like food, water, electricity and medicine.



Israel also dropped bombs on many places in Gaza where people live.

This has killed many children and adults.



Many leaders have spoken out about the bad things that Hamas did.

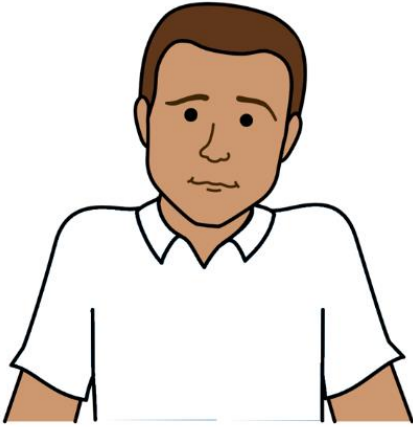
But some leaders have not said much about the bad things that the leaders of Israel have done in Gaza.

## **Making decisions that are not about people's human rights**

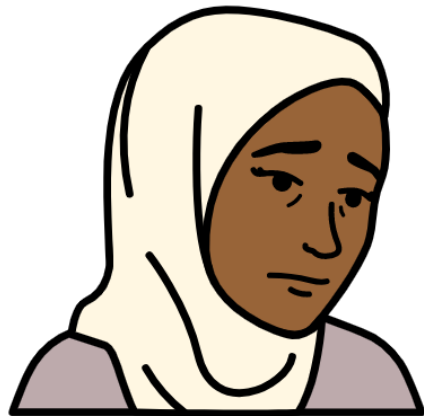


Many leaders want to work more closely with leaders from other countries.

That is to help them get things they want for themselves or their countries.



But leaders are not always thinking about people's human rights when they work with other countries.



For example, many leaders have met with the leader of India.

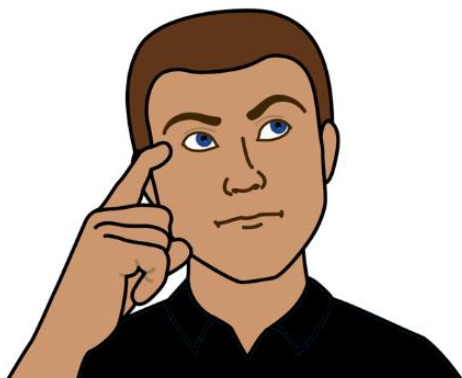
But the leaders did not say much about human rights problems in India when they met the leader of India.

For example, leaders in India are treating people from some religions very badly.



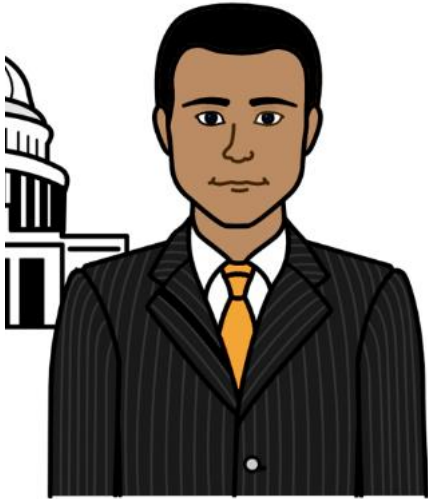
The leaders talked about other things instead.

Like how they can sell more things to each other.



That means leaders are not doing much to stop some human rights problems now and in the future.

They are only thinking about what will work best for them now.



## Doing bad things to people to get more power and control

Many leaders in the world want to have more power and control over people in the country.

That is bad for people's human rights.

But there are people in the country that can help to make sure that everyone is safe and treated fairly.

That includes:

- People who make laws for the country.
- Judges in courts.
- Organizations that check if people are getting their human rights.
- People who write news stories about what is happening in the country.
- People who stand up for people's human rights.







These people are very important.

They can help to stop leaders from getting too much power and control.

That is why many leaders want to stop these people from saying what they think or doing their jobs.



For example, many leaders are doing things like:

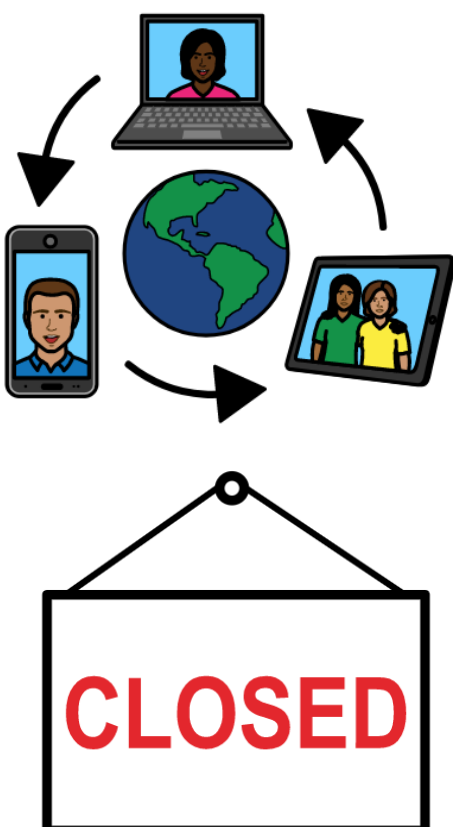
- Hurting or killing some people who do not agree with them.  
Or putting them in prison.

- Making it hard for people to share ideas that the leaders do not agree with.

That includes sharing ideas on social media like YouTube or X.

- Controlling how laws and decisions are made.

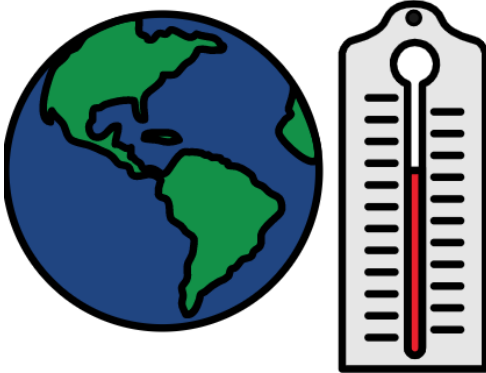
- Shutting down organizations that might speak out against them.



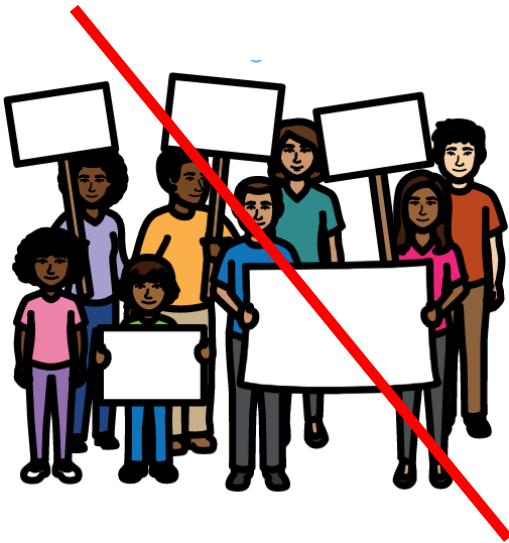


Some leaders are trying to stop people from speaking out against them in other countries as well.

That includes the leaders of China, India and Rwanda.



Leaders of many countries are also making it harder for people to say what they think about climate change.



For example, many leaders are making new laws to try to stop people from speaking out about climate change.

That might be because many leaders are not doing enough to stop climate change.



Climate change is about the earth getting warmer.

That is because countries are burning too much oil, gas and coal.

This is causing big problems like floods, bad storms and too much heat.

## Some good work that has happened on human rights



Some good things have also happened for people's human rights in the world.

This shows the great things that people and organizations can do to change things.



For example, Mexico made a law to make sure that everyone over 18 has the right to make their own choices about their lives.

This should help to make life better for many people with disabilities and older people.



Many people got together in Mexico to ask for this new law.

They worked hard to make it happen.



A court in Brazil helped some groups of people to get their rights to their land.

These groups of people have often been treated very badly.

For example, much of their land has been taken away from them.



Some people have been trying to get to the UK to be safe from big problems in their countries.

The leaders of the UK want to send some of these people to Rwanda instead.



But a court in the UK stopped the leaders from doing that.

The court said that Rwanda was not a safe place to send people.



The court said that sending people to Rwanda would break human rights laws.

# What needs to happen next



There are laws about human rights that leaders of the world made together.

These laws are very important. They help to keep our human rights safe.



Leaders should follow these laws at all times.

That means leaders should make sure that everyone is treated fairly and can have a good life.



Leaders should solve all human rights problems for everyone. Not just for some people.

They should start doing that straight away.

That will help to make the world a better place for everyone.