# S.2 C.R.E

## ORDER AND FREEDOM IN SOCIETY

Every society or group of people has some rules and regulations which govern the conduct of every member so that they can achieve their goals

Every member of a group has rights but these rights impose responsibilities on everyone else in the group. Take for example library rules in your school: Someone may say that he understands better when he reads aloud but this may limit other people's freedom to study well.

The rule may seem very unfair to the one talking, but for the school to maintain order and achieve its purpose, some rules and regulations are necessary.

**NB: Imagine what happens when drivers neglect traffic rules.**

Every society needs to protect its members. This is the reason why we have the courts of law, the police, the army, the human rights commission, etc.

If we are to live happily together, then we need to know what freedom means and what it requires.

We must have order in our society if we are to achieve real freedom together.

**What is justice?**

Often it is easier to speak about injustice which everyone experiences and observes around us than to speak about justice.

**However, justice means:**

1. The fair treatment of others by those in privileged positions
2. The search for maximum peace
3. The respect for other people's choices or interests
4. Caring for the needs of others especially those whom nobody tries to care for.
5. The legal system used for punishing criminals in society
6. The title given to a person who leads or presides over a court e.g justice Ogola, Ssebutinde, etc
7. Living with other people in harmony

8. Supporting one another in the community
9. Sharing the little we have with others in the society
10. Exercising love and charity in the society.

## FORM OF INJUSTICE TODAY

They include the following:

- Injustice is the unfair treatment of other people
- It is also the breakdown in relationships
- Bullying of new students in school is a form of injustice
- Bullying in police or prison cells by old inmates
- Mob justice is another form of injustice where the victim is not given a chance to explain himself or herself
- Tribalism or nepotism are forms of injustice- where a person is favoured in employment or other benefits according to tribe or family lineage.
- Racism is common in China and the USA especially during the current COVID-19 epidemic
- Black market is a common practice today due to economic crises
- Cheating of travellers by transport companies that charge high fairs
- Imposition of trade restrictions on third world countries by the west
- Trade sanctions on some countries
- Travel sanctions on some leaders of particular countries for abuses against humanity
- Child abuse such as child labour, child sacrifice, child neglect, child trafficking, rape, defilement, early marriage, forced marriage etc.
- Witchcraft and witch-hunting
- Examination malpractice practised by some schools
- Rigging of elections by some politicians
- Torturing of political opponents by those in authority
- Denying children some of the basics in life e.g food, treatment, education
- Corruption e.g. bribery, theft etc. E.g the recent instant in the OPM office where some offices were accused of hiking he prices of beans and posho meant for COVID-19 beneficiaries.

## FORMS OF BULLYING TODAY

- Beating of new students
- Throwing of new comers' property
- Pouring water on their beds
- Some of the snacks or bites are forcefully grabbed away from them
- New students are made to work for the older students
- New students are forced to entertain the elderly students
- New students are given directions in the school e.g toilets Versus Head teachers' office
- Nicknaming of teachers and new students e.g calling them 'Onyongos'
- Denying new students food or entertainment or participating in games
- Use of abusive or vulgar language against new students

**Effects of bullying in schools**

- It makes a student to become anti-social or lonely
- It makes a student become depressed or unhappy
- It makes a student scared all the time
- It makes a student to develop or nurse the feeling of revenge
- It can make a student to drop out of school
- A student bullied may commit suicide due to annoyance
- A student bullied may end up abusing drugs
- He may also end up into alcoholism
- Bullying can end up into early married and early pregnancy
- It can result into poor performance in class
- It can result into burying of one's talents-due to fear
- It can result into body injuries
- It can result into death due to brutality of the students

  Mob justice: causes and effects
- Mob justice is a situation where a large crowd of people turn violent and try to obtain justice by revenging to cause destruction on the side of the suspect
- The causes include the following:
- Drug abuse
- Alcoholism
- Poverty or the need for money

- Lack of confidence on the existing laws in the country or the implementers
- Lack of moral or religious values
- The desire for revenge
- False prophecy or false accusation
- Bribery or corruption
- High tempers in the community
- Lawlessness
- Hatred and witch-hunting
- Mob pressure

**Effects**

**Mob justice can result into:**

- Death of the victim or suspect
- Hostility between the linage of the victim and the murderous
- Unnecessary arrests in the community
- Destruction of property
- Displacement of some people
- Permanent injury or trauma on the suspect
- Insecurity or suspicion between the two sides
- Witchcraft
- The victim is not given a chance to reform and repent
- The victim is not given a chance to defend himself or herself

## TRADITIONAL AFRICAN UNDERSTANDING OF JUSTICE

It was viewed as:

- Being able to provide for the basic needs of society such as food, cloths, shelter, security etc.
- Discouraging individualism in the community since the tribal community was a mutual community
- Sharing some resources such as land and cattle, these were also administered by the chiefs on behalf of the community.
- Human need was the supreme criterion of behaviour i.e a hungry stranger could without penalties enter a village garden and pick a cluster of bananas or a maize cob to satisfy his hunger. His action would only

become theft if he took more than he needed to satisfy his hunger because he would be depriving other people.

- Living in harmony with others in the community was necessary. Chiefs and tribal elders were charged with judicial and reconciliatory roles. They arbitrated between the conflicting parties. They were tasked with whatever action was necessary to strengthen the social fabric.
- Justice is concerned with relationships i.e the respect for mutual rights of others
- Justice meant reconciling with one's foes. The local court played the reconciliatory role and a ritual followed.
- Fines and compensations were carried out as part of the reconciliation. These were given to the aggrieved party to cement the relationship.
- Justice meant striving to find ways of people living together in harmony with one another.
- It also meant defending one another's interests in the community
- It meant keeping one's part of the covenant in societies where blood-pact agreements were common, like the Lugbara and Bakiga in Uganda

## CASES OF INJUSTICE IN A.T.S

These include the following:

1. People who were poor were highly condemned and being poor was shameful
2. People who were insane or crippled were harshly treated, beaten and in most cases isolated from the community
3. Minority groups such as the farmers were exploited and kept in an inferior or servile position by the ruling class.
4. Strangers were always isolated and denied certain privileges enjoyed by the hosts e.g ownership of land, intermarriage
5. Strangers led their own social life in isolation and they were always victims of discrimination , witch- hunting, etc
6. Women were denied public office
7. Women were also denied certain delicious foods such as chicken , eggs liver, fish etc
8. Barrenness was blamed on women in marriage
9. Certain people were sold into slavery e.g bastards, prisoners of war or criminals etc

10. Half-castes and albinos were regarded as bad ormen
11. Health complications were attributed to bad relationships with the ancestors
12. Witchcraft and sorcery

## JUSTICE IN THE BIBLE

- The Old Testament presents to us how God wants people to be i.e to live in good terms with God, with each other and with the rest of creation
- Justice means obeying the laws of God or his instructions
- It means depending on God for our livelihood.
- Justice means doing good to one another
- It means sharing our wealth with others
- It means supporting one another e.g Eve was created to support Adam
- It means trusting one another
- It involves curing for one another
- Justice means love of one another
- It means being concerned about each other. They should not take advantage of the weak in our community
- The Bible also teaches that justice means hating evil and love right . Being good to others
- We should be honest or trust worthy in the courts of law
- We should avoid exploiting the poor and the weak using wrong weighing scales
- It means we should act like a good shepherd Ezekiel 54

## How Jesus practised justice in society among his people

- He humbled himself and associated with everyone else regardless of his or her social, political, religious, economic, sex status
- He even allowed children to come to him and he blessed them. According to Jewish tradition, he was too big for children to come close to him.
- He broke the Sabbath law and allowed his disciples to pick corn on the Sabbath to quench their hunger,. He also cured a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath
- He rescued and forgave a woman caught in adultery whom people wanted to stone her to death ( Jn 8:1-8)

- He put back the ear of one of his executers whom Peter had cut off in defense.
- He forgave and understood Peter when the latter betrayed him
- Jesus forgave his executers while on the cross
- He stood along with those who lost their dear ones e.g Mary and Martha over the death of Lazarus the widow, the centurion, etc
- He offered himself to the people in place of the law which had over burdened them
- He accepted death on the cross in order to reconcile man with God
- He condemned the religious hypocrisy of the Pharisees and teachers of the law
- He performed many miracles which were meant to liberate mankind from bondage e.g the leper, the woman with haemorrhage for twelve years.
- He also fed 5000 men and women with two fish and five loaves
- He turned water into wine at Cana upon sympathising with the host and his guests at a wedding feast JN 2:11
- Accomplished his father will
- He became Emmanuel

**Questions**

1. What forms of injustices exist in our society today?
2. Why is bullying a form of injustice in schools?
3. How are children abused in Uganda today?
4. In what ways were some people in traditional African society unjustly treated.
5. How can the Biblical teaching help to promote justice in society?
6. How did Jesus practice justice among his own people?
7. Who were the under-privileged in traditional African society?