

# Moving toward Social Justice

Definition

Types

Examples



Is treating everyone the same –equality?

Where do we go from here ?

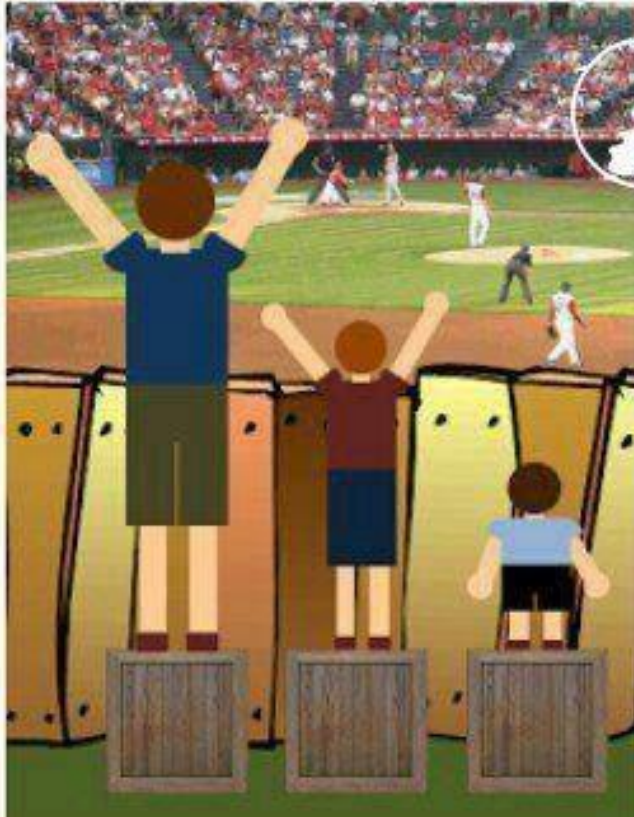
What do you think?

Is social justice instinctive, desirable & or achievable?



forward

## Equality

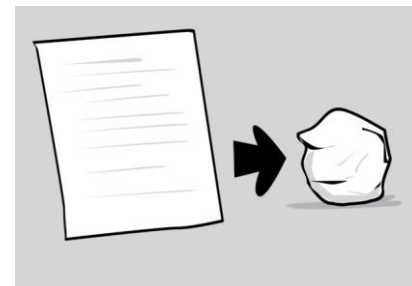


## Equity



back

Desk toss exercise



# Moving towards Social Justice definition



- **Social justice** means a society in which all people are treated with fairness, where each person has equal rights and opportunities relative to their needs, including basic rights, liberties, freedom of movement, free choice of occupation, income, wealth, and the social conditions to develop a positive sense of identity and self

# where does it come from?

- Social scientists have concluded that the idea of fairness and the concept of justice are instinctive or inborn in humans
  - While there are some universal principles of justice, what it looks like differs from culture to culture, and from group to group within a particular society
  - Also, our ideas of what constitutes justice can shift over time



2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2011

# religions & social justice

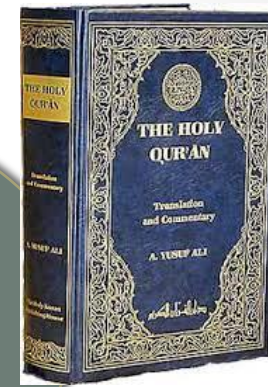


## Sikhism

social justice =  
truthful living & the  
equality of mankind

1 of the 5 pillars  
of Islam

*Zakat* alms giving  
helping the poor



## Judaism

*tikkun olam* –  
social action &  
community  
service

## social justice

## Protestant Christianity

emphasizes the  
Christian principles  
to society's  
problems



## Catholicism

dignity of human life &  
preferential treatment  
for the poor or  
vulnerable





# types

- **Revolutionary movement** – an attempt to totally change society and start over
  - ex. American Revolution
- **Reformative movement** – trying to make more limited change in a specific area
  - ex. Women's Liberation movement
- **Redemptive movement** – aims to change people completely
  - ex. religious conversion
- **Alternative movement** – limited changes in people
  - Ex. MADD wants to stop people from drinking and driving



# specific examples

Craig  
Kielburger  
Free the  
Children

Nelson  
Mandela  
Defiance of  
Apartheid

Aboriginal  
Rights

Women's  
Rights  
3 waves

Counter  
culture  
movement  
'60s

The Green  
Party  
Environmental

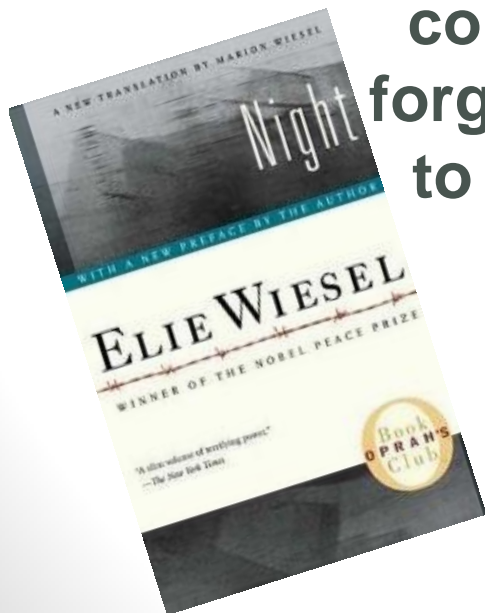
Rosa Parks,  
MLKing  
Malcolm X  
Civil Rights  
Movement

Unions  
The Labour  
Movement

Stonewall to  
Pride  
Same Sex  
Rights

**why should  
we do it?**

**"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in the camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever...Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never." —**



## **Night** by Elie Wiesel

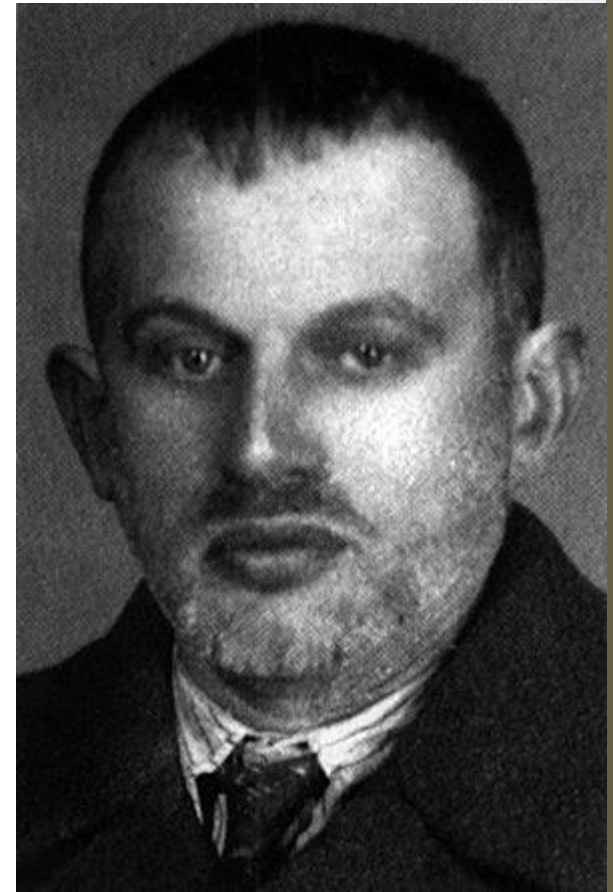
**The house  
that Elie grew  
up in.**





**Elie Wiesel, as a child with his mother and sisters.**

**Elie Wiesel, age 15,  
shortly before deportation**



**His father**



A concentration camp



SS officers inspect a camp



A line up (sometimes in "fours" or "fives" and so on)



**Elie with his younger sister  
Tsipora & his mother**





**Of the six million Jews destroyed  
in the Holocaust, one million of them  
were children.**





The barracks at Buchenwald. Elie Wiesel is among the prisoners on the far right of the center bunk. This photograph was taken on April 16, 1945, just after the liberation of Buchenwald.



NOBEL PRIZE  
FOR PEACE



“ALWAYS question those  
who are certain of what  
they are saying.”

- Inducted: 1996 -

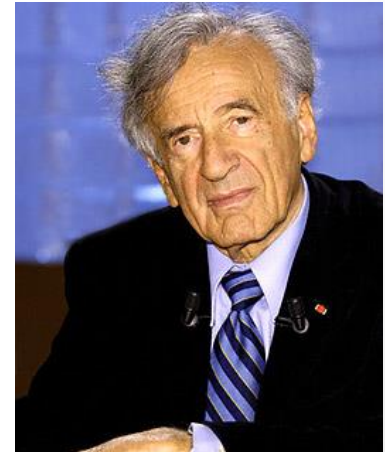
*Elie Wiesel... In truth, I have learned something. The enemy wanted to be the one who speaks, and I felt, **I still feel**, we must see to it that **the victim should be the one who speaks and is heard.***

*Therefore, all my adult life ... I always try to listen to the victim... if I remain silent, I may **help my own soul** but, because I do not help other people, I **poison my soul.***

***Silence never helps the victim. It only helps the victimizer. I think of the killer and I lose all faith. But then I think of the victim and I am inundated with compassion.***

*"Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must — at that moment — become the center of the universe... And **action** is the only remedy to indifference, the most insidious danger of all."*

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize  
acceptance speech, 1986



**“All that is necessary  
for the triumph  
of evil is for good men  
to do nothing”**

Edmund Burke

So what can  
we do?



# 10 Commandments for Change

*"If you go to one demonstration and then go home, that's something, but the people in power can live with that. What they can't live with is sustained pressure that keeps building, organizations that keep doing things, people that keep learning lessons from the last time and doing it better the next time."*

Noam Chomsky





# 10 Commandments for Change

## **1 You Gotta Believe**

Have hope, passion and confidence that valuable change can and does happen because individuals take bold initiative.

## **2 Challenge Authority**

Don't be afraid to question authority. Authority should be earned, not appointed. The "experts" are often proven wrong — they used to believe that the earth was flat! You don't have to be an expert to have a valuable opinion or to speak out on an issue.

## **3 Know the System**

The system keeps itself going. Use the tools you have — the telephone is the most underrated. The internet can be of great value for research as well. Learn how decisions are made. How is the organization or government structured? Who are the key players? What do they look like? Where do they eat lunch? Go there and talk with them. Get to know their executive assistants. Attend public meetings.

## **4 Take Action**

Do something — anything is better than nothing. Bounce your idea around with friends, and then act. Start small, but think big. Organize public events. Distribute handbills. Involve youth. It's easier to ask for forgiveness after the fact rather than to ask for permission. Just do it! Be flexible. Roll with the punches and allow yourself to change tactics mid-stream. Think laterally. Don't get hung-up on money matters; some of the best actions have no budget.

## **5 Use the media**

Letters to the Editor of your local newspaper are read by thousands. Stage a dramatic event and invite the media — they love an event that gives them an interesting angle or good photo. Use social media networks or email campaigns to spread the word and make connections.

## **6 Build Alliances**

Seek out your common allies such as other community associations, seniors, youth groups, labour, businesses, etc. and work with them to establish support. The system wins through - Divide and Conquer, so do the opposite! Network ideas, expertise and issues through email lists. Celebrate your successes with others.

## **7 Apply Constant Pressure**

Persevere — it drives those in power crazy. Be as creative as possible in getting your perspective heard. Use the media, phone your politicians, send letters and faxes with graphics and images. Be concise. Bend the Administration's ear when you attend public meetings. Take notes. Ask specific questions, and give a deadline for when you expect a response. Stay in their faces.

## **8 Teach Alternatives**

Propose and articulate intelligent alternatives to the status quo. Inspire people with well thought out, attractive visions of how things can be better. Use actual examples, what's been tried, where and how it works. Do your homework, get the word out, create visual representations. Be positive and hopeful.

## **9 Learn From your Mistakes**


You're going to make mistakes; we all do. Critique -in a positive way - yourself, the movement, and the opposition. What works, and why? What isn't working? What do people really enjoy doing, and do more of that.

## **10 Take Care of Yourself and Each Other**

Maintain balance. Eat well and get regular exercise. Avoid burn-out by delegating tasks, sharing responsibility, and maintaining an open process. Be sensitive to your comrades. Have fun. As much as possible, surround yourself with others (both at work and at play) who share your vision so you can build camaraderie, solidarity and support. Enjoy yourself, and nourish your sense of humour. Remember: you're not alone!

**Go forth and agitate!**

Which commandment  
seems to resonate with you  
– make the most sense for  
someone like yourself?



A decorative graphic consisting of the numbers 1 through 10. The numbers are rendered in a bold, black, serif font and are arranged in a vertical, overlapping column. The numbers are slightly offset from each other, creating a sense of depth and movement. The background is a light gray gradient.

Which do you think would be  
the most challenging for you  
given your personality?

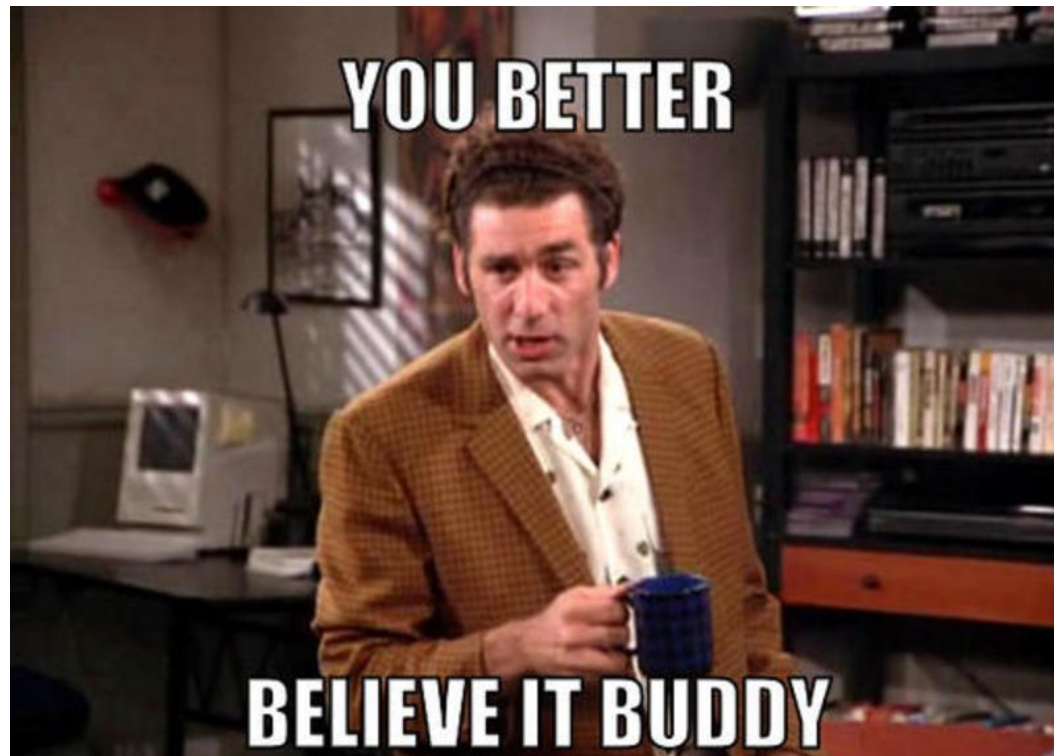
Why do you think that is?

Which of these would be the most possible for you at this stage in your life?

Would this possibly change over time? Why or how? ~

# 1

# You Gotta Believe



# 2

## Challenge Authority





# 3

## Know the System



4

# Take Action



# 5

## Use the Media



# 6

# Build Alliances



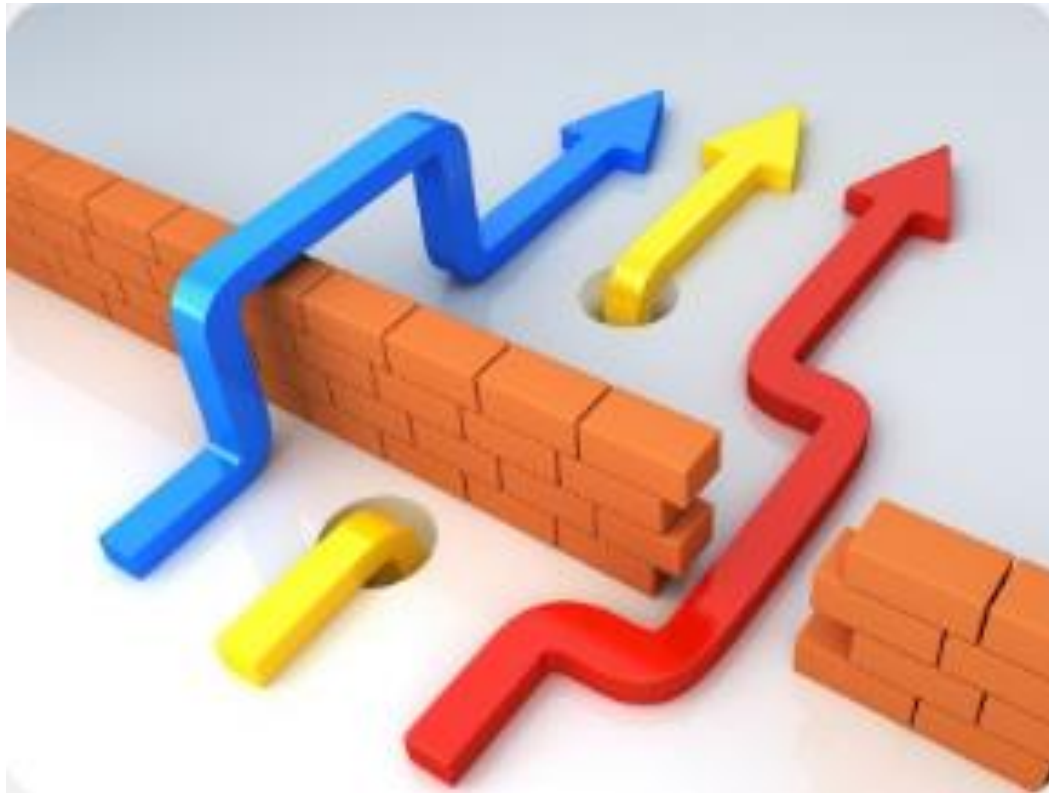
# 7

## Apply Constant Pressure

don't stop.  
push harder.  
keep going.

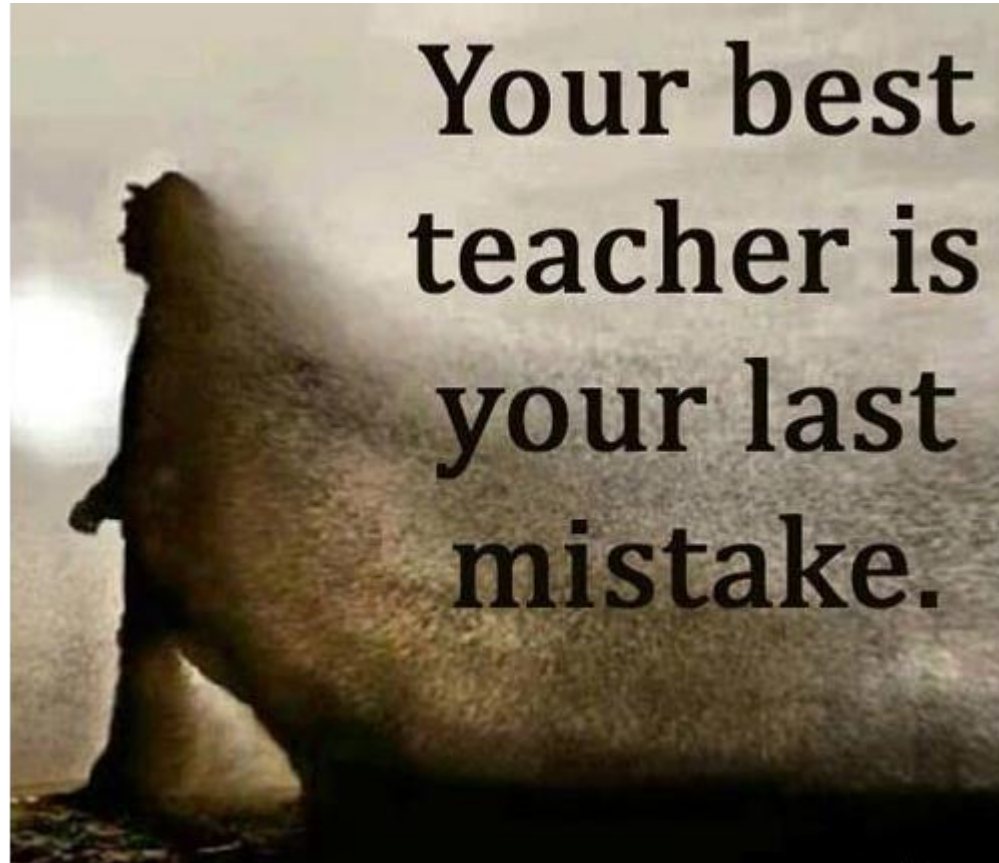
# 8

# Teach Alternatives



# 9

## Learn from your Mistakes



# 10

## Take Care of Yourself & Each Other

