

What has the European Convention of Human Rights ever done for us?

Patrick Stewart – 2016 (a special year?)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptfmAY6M6aA>

5 *Prime Minister : Good Morning. Before we start, I want to be absolutely clear about one thing : we are here to serve the British people, not the whims of some European imperialist state. We are a proud nation and no bureaucrat in Brussels can tell us what to do. We are a democracy, not some perverse genuflecting mouse puppet on a European finger. The idea of that makes me physically sick! They took our sovereignty, our dignity, the very essence of our Britishness. And what has the European Convention of Human Rights ever done for us in return?*

- Oh ... the right to a fair trial.

- *What?*

- The right to a fair trial.

10 - *Well, that's true I suppose*

- The right to privacy

- *Well. Yes. All right. I grant you, fair trials and privacy are two things the European Convention of Human Rights has given us but ...*

- What about freedom from torture and degrading treatment?

15 - Oh, freedom of religion.

- Freedom of expression.

- Freedom from discrimination.

- Oh, how about freedom from slavery?

- *Yes, of course. Freedom from slavery goes without saying, but ...*

20 - Protecting victims of domestic violence.

- *Okay. Okay. But, apart from the right to a fair trial, the right to privacy, of freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom from discrimination, freedom from slavery, and freedom from torture ...*

- And degrading treatment

25 - *And degrading treatment. And protecting victims of domestic violence. But apart from these, what has the European Convention on Human Rights ever done for us?*

- Peace in Northern Ireland?

- *What?*

30 - Well, I mean the Good Friday Agreement depends on the European Convention of Human Rights. So, without it, we'd have to make peace all over again. And what a palaver that would be! No, thank you!

- Argh! No! No!

35 - *Look here. I'm not against human rights. Of course not! But I say we don't need lectures from the frogs and the krauts. This is Britain, the land of Magna Carta! We invented human rights, for God's sake! We should be writing our own Bill of Rights and foisting it on the Europeans. Ah, let's see how they'd like it then!*

- We've already done that. Actually.

- *What?*

40 Well, after we won the war, British legal experts did draft a bill of human rights to help Europe sort itself out, you know, protect people from abuses of state power. That kind of thing.

- *Really?*

- Oh, yeah.

- *You sure?*

- Oh yes.

45 - *Well, that's good. What's it called?*

- The European Convention on Human Rights.

- *Oh, f*** off.*

WORKSHEET on the audio version

STUDENT

Speakers :

Accent / nationality :

One city mentioned :

One country mentioned :

Topic / subject :

Fundamental rights :

Agree / disagree ?

Pro-Europeans / anti-Europeans?

Serious or humourous?

The message :

Vocabulary from the transcript

des caprices :

fier, fière :

qui se met à genoux, aux ordres :

une marionnette :

cela me donne envie de vomir :

un droit :

procès équitable :

vie privée :

esclavage :

les violences conjugales :

la paix :

un bazar =

conférence, cours magistral :

les français (péjoratif) :

les allemands (péjoratif) :

imposer à :

brouillon, version préliminaire :

un projet de loi :

et puis m *** après tout ! :

WORKSHEET on the audio version

TEACHER

Speakers : 1 main speaker (the Prime Minister) + other ladies and gentlemen

Accent / nationality : British / British

One city mentioned : Brussels in Belgium (European parliament where MEPs meet)

One country mentioned : Northern Ireland

Topic / subject : the European Convention of Human Rights

Fundamental rights : freedom of ... / freedom from ... / freedom to ...

Agree / disagree ? : they all seem to agree ("hear, hear" is the regular form of cheering in the House of Commons", with many purposes, depending on the intonation of its user. Its use in Parliament is linked to the fact that applause is normally (though not always) forbidden in the chambers of the House of Commons and House of Lords.)

Pro-Europeans / anti-Europeans? : the Prime Minister is apparently opposed to the idea of a Europe led from Brussels, but he is forced to admit there are arguments in favour.

Serious or humorous? : a caricature of the Brexiteer / a parody of a session in Parliament

The message : Europe is a good thing for Europeans

Vocabulary from the transcript

des caprices : whims

fier, fière : proud

qui se met à genoux, aux ordres : genuflecting

une marionnette : a puppet

cela me donne envie de vomir : it makes me sick

un droit : a right

procès équitable : fair trial

vie privée : privacy

esclavage : slavery

les violences conjugales : domestic violence

la paix : peace

un bazar = a palaver /pə'la:vəʃ/

conférence, cours magistral : lecture

les français (péjoratif) : the frogs

les allemands (péjoratif) : the krauts

imposer à : foist on

brouillon, version préliminaire : a draft

un projet de loi : a bill

et puis m *** après tout ! : f*** off!