**The Christian Value of Justice**

**Key Stage 2 – Reflection 2**

This reflection explores worldwide issues of justice, using some Christian Aid resources about schools in Sierra Leone. It builds on the whole school worship on the story of the sheep and the goats, which encourages us to think about other people having access to food and drink, secure homes and livelihoods.

*You will need the associated PowerPoint.*

**Slide 1:** The slide includes a link to Bruno Mars, *Count on Me,* if you would like to use this as the children settle for worship.

**Slide 2:** Begin by recapping the idea of justice and that the scales remind us to treat everybody equally. We need to balance our needs in England with the needs of people around the world. The story of the sheep and goats (explored in whole-school worship) encourages us to make sure that everyone has access to nourishing food, clean water, secure homes – and a decent education.

**Slide 3:** Ask the children what they like best about their school. They could share ideas with a partner and then with the wider class. How would they feel if they couldn’t go to school? What difference would it make to their lives?

We’re very lucky in the UK, that we have one of the best education systems in the world. That’s not the case for many people in other countries.

**Slide 4:** Introduce Patricia, who loves in Sierra Leone in West Africa. The country recently suffered from a civil war and many people had to leave their homes and many buildings were damaged.

What differences do they notice between their own school and Patricia’s school?

The old school building wasn’t safe, with cracks in the walls, broken beams and termites nests. Christian Aid has worked with the local Methodist Church to help rebuild the school building, which is now much safer.

Patricia loves school and she wants to study hard and become the first female president of Sierra Leone. She is very excited about the new school building because they will have new desks and benches, and the rain won’t come through the roof and spoil their books! She says that what they’d like next is a school band.

**Slide 5:**

However, many girls don’t go to school at all. Many families can’t afford to buy the uniform or the books, and girls are more likely to drop out of school than boys. (Why do you think that is?)

Kadiatu is 11 and she can’t go to school anymore, she has to stay at home to do housework such as collecting water, washing clothes, cooking meals and looking after her younger brothers and sisters. *What do you think she is doing in the photo on the right?*

She loved school and her favourite subject was Science. She wanted to be a doctor one day, but she has six brothers and sisters, and her family can’t afford to send her to school.

What difference do you think that makes to her life? Why do you think it is important for girls (and boys) to go to school? 260 million children in the world don’t go to school, because of poverty, or war or migration.

There is a link on the slide to a short film about Kadiatu and the importance of girls going to school. You will need to scroll down the Christian Aid Global Explorers page to find it.

*Is it fair that some people in the world have really good schools and lots of opportunities, while other children can’t go to school at all, or have large classes and very few resources?*

*Do they think it’s fair that it’s often the girls who miss out on school, so they can do housework or earn money for their families?*

*In the film, it says, ‘If you educate a girl, you have educated the whole nation.’ What do the class think this means? Do they agree? (E.g. does it mean that women who can read and write will be able to teach their children?)*

*Is there anything we can do to help children like Patricia and Kadiatu? E.g. support charities like Christian Aid or* [*Send my Friend to School*](https://sendmyfriend.org/) *that are working to improve education round the world. Do they think the climate crisis will affect children in majority world countries where it is harder to go to school? In what way?*

*Do the children think we ought to be helping people in other parts of the world? Why/ Why not? In the story of the sheep and the goats Jesus said it was important to feed the hungry and look after people who don’t have as much as we do, do they agree?*

**Slide 6:**

**Closing Prayer**

*Invite the children to join in by saying Amen at the end, if they agree.*

Dear God,

Thank you for our schools and for all the opportunities that we enjoy.

Please help children like Patricia and Kadiatu and others who can’t go to school, or who don’t have many resources in their schools.

Thank you for charities such as Christian Aid, who are working to improve education around the world.

We pray for a fairer world, where everyone has access to a good education.

Amen.

You can find out more about Patricia’s and Kadiatu’s stories – and those of children in other parts of the world – on the [Christian Aid Global Explorers Website.](https://www.globalexplorers.org.uk)

**Slide 7:**

It is probably worth reminding your class that not all schools in African countries are like the ones they’ve been looking at. These pictures are from St Andrew’s School, Turi, in Kenya, one of the best schools on the continent, and better than many English schools!