# The Politics of Empathy

For some, social policies are only desirable when they're the one affected. (Help me because I need it)

For me social responsibility is showing compassion to others, even when it doesn't affect you personally. (Help someone else because they need it)

Until we are all able to empathise with others, try to understand their struggles, their difficulties, their problems. Only when we are prepared to stand 'shoulder to shoulder' with them, and help fight their battles will we have a chance of living in a society that we desire for ourselves.

## A Man Made Ideal

As an atheist I see religions as a construct on man. Time and time again, out of our ability to empathise we’re created “commandments” to live by that are based on how we ourselves want to be treated. It’s born of our intelligence, not just a cold hard logic (IQ) but also of the type of intelligence required to understand other people’s emotions (EQ). For me morality is a consequence of emotional intelligence. The last 5 commandment’s outline ones duties regarding our relationship with other people

* Honor your father and your mother
* You shall not murder
* You shall not commit adultery
* You shall not steal
* You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour
* You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Let’s be honest if you’re able to empathise theses no need for such a simplistic list. Maybe this should read “Though should empathise and seek to understand”.