Is violence ever okay?

Starter

* Peace is the absence of conflict
* Justice is bringing back what is right and fair
* Forgiveness is pardoning the person who wrongs you
* Reconciliation is rebuilding a relationship

Key terms

Protest – An expression of disapproval, often in a public group

Violence – Using actions that threaten or harm others

Terrorism – The unlawful use of violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal

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| Law | Peaceful protest | Terrorism | Religion and terrorism |
| The right to protest is considered to be a democratic freedom  Police can request alterations to route or apply to a court for an order to ban the march, if they feel there might be violence involved | PP was an important part of civil rights movement in the USA 1950s/60s (MLKJ)  Peaceful methods were successful, and equal rights legislation was passed into US law  Christians believe that protest to achieve what is right is acceptable, provided there is no violence  Buddhists advocates non-violent forms of protest | No religion promotes violence  Conflict should be avoided if possible  Terrorist’s violence usually targets civilians and takes place in public e.g. suicide bombers  Terrorists believe that killing people this way will spread awareness of their cause and push authorities to give into their demands | Most Christians would consider terrorist acts of violence to be wrong, especially if the victims are innocent people. They prefer peaceful ways of resolving issues  Buddhism believes it’s important to condemn terrorism and imprison terrorists, but it is important to understand the causes, terrorists may act this way because they are suffering. They will counter terrorism with compassion |

Christians believe in the sanctity of life meaning all life is sacred as it is given by God

Matthew 5:39 – turn the cheek meaning do not retaliate

Dalai lama – It is okay to harm somebody when it is self defence

Genesis 9:6 – Life is sacred, and it should not be taken by anybody other than God. If you kill you will be killed

Thich Nhat Hanh – following Buddhists principles is more important than avenging yourself

I think Genesis 9:6 is the most important teaching as it teaches that life should not be taken

Riots 2011

The police shot a person and he died

It started as a peaceful protest but turned into looting and arson.

A Christian would support the peaceful protest, but they might not agree with the riots because of the violence. However, they may agree with the violence if they are following the genesis 9:6 teaching

MLKs last speech

An example of a peaceful protest

He used emotive language and was positive

Christians and Buddhist will both agree with this as it is a peaceful protest

Ghosananda Cambodia march

Peaceful protest to reconcile with a repressive government and make peace.

Thich Quang Duc

He set himself alight in protest against repressive government policies. Some see this as a breach of the first moral precept which others think he is heroic

Is it always wrong to have weapons of mass destruction?

Starter

Greed – wanting a lot of something that is not yours

Self-defence – fighting back / defending yourself in order to protect yourself

Retaliation – fighting back when someone has done something bad

Ascetic – strict and simple lifestyle

Dependant arising – Everything depends on something else for existence

Nuclear weapons: weapons that work by a nuclear reaction. They devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people

Weapons of mass destruction: weapons that call kill large numbers of people and/or cause great damage

Chemical weapons: Weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroy the natural environment

Biological weapons – Weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease or death