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# John 'Hoppy' Hopkins

## Taking Liberties

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### Taking Liberties

'Taking Liberties' was a *retrospective* of the photographic work of John 'Hoppy' Hopkins from the period 1960 to 1966. The work captures the ethos and style of the emerging *counter-culture*, which was expressed through music, *popular protest* and art.

Included are iconic images of musicians including The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. A unique series of images capture historic meetings with civil rights leaders Dr Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, whilst another set show CND marches and anti-racist demonstrations.

'Hoppy' (born 1937) is a British photographer, video-maker and political activist, who was a highly influential figure in the UK underground movement in London. In 1965 he helped set up the 'London Free School' in Notting Hill. This in turn led to the establishment of the annual Notting Hill Carnival. He also helped set up the legendary UFO Night Club with Joe Boyd, with Pink Floyd as the resident band.

Now in his 70's, there have only been 3 major surveys of his photographic work – in 2000 at the Photographers' Gallery, London, in June 2009 at Idea Generation, also in London, and in late 2009 at *Street Level Photoworks* in Glasgow.

### Glossary taken from Cambridge dictionary

*Retrospective*, a show of the work an artist has done in their life so far.

*Counter-culture*, a way of life and a set of ideas that are completely different from those accepted by most of society, or the group of people who live this way

*Popular protest*, an occasion when people show that they disagree with something by walking somewhere, often shouting, chanting and carrying signs.

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### Activity Resource Sheet 1

Civil Rights

### Curriculum subjects:

Art and Design  
Higher Photography  
English  
Modern Studies

### Curriculum for Excellence:

Expressive Arts - Art and Design  
Social Studies - People, past events and societies

### Dr Martin Luther King and Malcolm X

Martin Luther King was a clergyman and a prominent leader of the African American civil rights movement that worked to abolish racial discrimination against African Americans in the USA. Amongst many of his notable achievements he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35 and directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, '*I Have a Dream*'. Dr King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968.

Malcolm X was an African American Muslim minister, public speaker and human rights activist. To his supporters he was a courageous advocate for the rights of African Americans, a man who condemned white America in the harshest terms for its crimes against black Americans. His critics accused him of preaching racism, black supremacy and violence. He has been described as one of the greatest, and most influential, African Americans in history. Malcolm X was assassinated in Manhattan, New York in 1965.

In 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which laid out guidelines for all nations to promote respect for all human beings. The key principles are

- Fairness
- Dignity
- Equality
- Respect
- Autonomy

In today's society there is more awareness of and respect for equality issues but we all have a duty to uphold and support these values to better our society.

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#### Activity

Martin Luther King said during his speech in Washington D.C, *"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."*

- Write your own version of Martin Luther Kings famous 'I have a dream' speech, showing what you would like to see for future generations.

#### Discussion

Malcolm X once said. *"I believe in the brotherhood of man, all men, but I don't believe in brotherhood with anybody who doesn't want brotherhood with me. I believe in treating people right, but I'm not going to waste my time trying to treat somebody right who doesn't know how to return the treatment."*

- Discuss the impact this quote might have had on black and white communities in America in the 60s.
  - Is anyone ever justified in resorting to violence to further their cause?
  - What do you believe in?
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