

Grade 9 Social Sciences Worksheet

Social Conflict

Inheritance for women

The South African Constitution is the highest law in the land. The Bill of Rights is a part of this Constitution and includes everyone's right to be treated equally:

“No-one may unfairly discriminate against anyone else because of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language or birth.”

The Constitutional Court is a place where conflicts that cannot be resolved elsewhere can be brought. It upholds the laws laid down by the Constitution. Read this newspaper article and answer the questions that follow.

Newspaper report

“Thanks to the judgment in the Constitutional Court, two Khayelitsha girls, aged nine and two, will now inherit a house from their father. African customary law had prevented them from inheriting the house after their father’s death because their parents were never married. Under this law the mother has no legal claims to the house and it is left to the father’s eldest male relative.

The judgement handed down described this law as “inconsistent with the constitutional guarantee of equality”.

The Deputy Chief Justice went on to say that “...The exclusion of women from being able to inherit property is in keeping with a system in which women are regarded as minors under the care of their fathers, husbands or head of the extended family.”

The Women’s Legal Centre director praised the court ruling. “This brings an end to discrimination against these groups on the basis of race, sex and birth and will protect their rights to equality and dignity,” he said.”

1. Explain why the two girls from Khayelitsha were previously **not** able to inherit a house. [4]
2. What does the judge mean when he describes the traditional African customary law as “inconsistent with the constitutional guarantee of equality”? [4]
3. Is the article on “Inheritance for women” an example of conflict caused by?
a) a problem relating to the supply and demand of resources,

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or

b) a demonstration of conflict caused by peoples' different points of view?
Justify your answer. [3]

4. Using the information above, explain **how** and **why** "this kind of discrimination has come to an end". [2]

Read the following information and answer the questions that follow.

Protesters Block National Road over Housing

CAPE TOWN. Protesters demanding proper houses burnt rubbish and tyres and blockaded the freeway for more than two hours.

"We are tired of promises. We want dates of when people will be reallocated to serviced land with houses and toilets. The constitution guarantees us the right to dignity. Where is the dignity in begging for a council toilet?" asked one of the protesters.

- 5.1 What did the protesters do to show their point of view? [2]
5.2 Explain why the protesters were angry. [4]
6. Why do you think these people do not have proper housing?
Give **two** reasons. [2 x 2 = 4]
7. The protesters want their action to be noticed.
- 7.1 At whom do you think they are targeting their actions? [2]
7.2 What are they hoping will be done about their complaints? [4]
8. Do you agree with the way in which the protesters are trying to resolve the problem? Explain your answer. [5]
9. List three other forms of social conflict that are common in South Africa [6]

Total: 40

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Suggested Solutions

1. African customary law had prevented them from inheriting the house after their father's death because their parents were never married. Under this law the mother has no legal claims to the house and it is left to the father's eldest male relative.
2. He means it is against the constitution, which is the highest law of the land, so the customary law has to give way.
3. **b)** a demonstration of conflict caused by peoples' different points of view?
There is a difference in point of view between customary law and the constitution which is the point of view of the majority agreed when the constitution was framed.
4. Once the Constitutional Court has made a ruling that is then the law. So the Concourt has ruled customary law discrimination to be against the law in all future cases.
- 5.1 They burnt rubbish and tyres and blockaded the freeway for more than two hours.
- 5.2 They are protesting the lack of service delivery with regard to land, houses and running water.
6. Why do you think these people do not have proper housing?
There is a huge housing shortage and despite building millions of houses, many people are still without houses.
It takes a lot of time to plan and build new housing estates.
- 7.1 Local Government which is responsible for housing
- 7.2 They are hoping that the housing department will recognise that they have been unfairly treated and will hurry the housing programme along.
8. Whichever way, agree or disagree, the answer must be logical and free of prejudice.
9. Strike action for better work conditions
High crime rate
Racial discrimination
Any other sensible answer.

Total: 40