Human rights are a set of rights that everyone has, just because they are human. Human rights are important. They were written to keep us safe and treated equally. When people ignore or break them, terrible things like World War II, the Stolen Generation and Apartheid have happened. When they are followed, wonderful things have happened, like when Nelson Mandela stopped Apartheid and when a woman from Australia opened a school in Tanzania to educate children in poverty.

In 1948, Eleanor Roosevelt, who was the wife of Franklin Roosevelt, the 32nd president of America, wrote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights along with the 56 members of the United Nations. Human rights are important because no one likes to be hurt by other people. If everyone were nice and cared for others, then the world would be a much better place. No poverty, war, slavery and all children would have an education. If we follow the human rights the world could be like that. Everyone deserves to be treated the same, no matter what race, origin, religion or gender we are. Therefore, human rights are important to everyone.

However, many people still break the human rights. Here’s what happens when people have in the past. Many people were killed in World War II. In the holocaust, Hitler and the Nazis exterminated some 6 million Jewish people, as well as people from other groups including gypsies and people with disabilities. Many were taken to death camps that had chambers equipped with poison gas for mass killings. It is thought that about 15 million people were victims of the holocaust. This event went against human rights because it broke every single article in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. If the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been written then, then maybe the holocaust could have been avoided.

Another example of how human rights could have helped prevent tragedy in people’s lives is in Australia in the 1900s. The government took thousands of Indigenous children away from their families. Then they put them into missions, orphanages or with white foster families. The removal policy was managed by the Aborigines Protection Board, which was established in 1909. It had the power to remove children without parental consent or going to court. Aboriginal children were taken from their parents so that white people could bring them up. Aboriginal children were expected to become labourers or servants. Again, the stolen generation broke many articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and could have been avoided.

Human rights in South Africa took a long time to be understood and followed. From 1948 to 1994, Apartheid, meaning ‘apartness’ in Afrikaans, was a governmental policy separating people into groups, white, black, coloured and Asian. The policy separated education, medical care, beaches and other public services. The services provided to black people were not as good as to those of white people. Apartheid caused a lot of resistance and violence as well as a long trade embargo against South Africa. This government policy didn’t follow human rights because they broke 10 of the 30 articles, such as Article 2, “freedom from distinction based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, opinion, origin, property, birth or residency.” Human rights are important because they protect us from such
horrible events happening again.

If human rights are followed, many excellent things can happen. Nelson Mandela, born 18 July 1918, was an important person in stopping Apartheid in South Africa. In 1962 he was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment for insisting on the human right to be treated free and equal. Nelson spent 27 years in prison, and after he was released in 1990, Nelson led the negotiations that led to the end of apartheid. He served as the first South African President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. Equality between white South Africans and the other coloured people of South Africa had been restored In South Africa after Nelson Mandela stopped Apartheid. Article 2, as mentioned earlier, which was one of the human rights broken in Apartheid attributed in the end of Apartheid.

Human rights can help education people all over the world. A woman from Australia named Gemma Sisia opened the school of St Jude in 2002. The school is located in Tanzania, East Africa, and provides education for about 1,500 underprivileged but bright children living in poverty. The School of St Jude is a charity-funded school, relying on donations and sponsors to keep open. Only 18 percent of the whole Tanzanian population receives primary education, so it is very important that the school remains open. Having an education is valuable to everyone because an education can help children living in poverty have a better life and all children deserve to have an education. An education can give underprivileged children a better job when they are older and it can help them make a better life for themselves. We should build more schools for children in developing countries. Article 26 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the “right to education” and this helps us to achieve this.

Also, some people have disabilities. A population educated about human rights means that they are properly cared for and have access to special lifts, bathrooms and car parks. It also means that they are not unfairly judged for their disability and can even participate in special races in major sporting competitions like the Paralympics. Human rights are important because it has helped many people by getting a good education, receive special care, be respected like they deserve and to be treated like everyone else.

Human rights are the most important rights for anyone and everyone. They keep us safe and equal and protect us from events like World War II, the Stolen Generation and Apartheid occurring again. We are much better off because we do have them. With human rights, the Apartheid has thankfully ended, Gemma Sisia can provide an education for Tanzanian children and people with disabilities can be properly cared for and respected. In conclusion, human rights are essential to us humans.