

It should be banned!

Discussion

Here is a list of some things which are banned in some countries, but are allowed in others. In pairs or small groups, discuss whether they are banned in your country and then compare with others in your class:

- smoking inside public buildings
- smoking marijuana
- parents smacking children
- topless sunbathing
- abortion pills
- selling alcohol on election day

If some or all of the things above are not banned in your country, do you think they should be? Why / why not?

Reading

Read these articles and answer the questions below each one with a partner:

WOMAN ARRESTED ON RIO BEACH

A young woman was arrested yesterday for using only one part of her two-part bikini. Brazilians are famous for their love of the beach, and wear **very** small bikinis but topless sunbathing is still not allowed. Police used to have a 'look the other way' policy but local authorities have begun to enforce the controversial law which forbids nudity. The woman was unrepentant after her arrest: "This is Brazil – not England, not the US. We believe in freedom and we believe in the right to show our bodies. This is absolutely ridiculous."

1. Is this law sensible, in your opinion?
2. What is meant by a 'look the other way' policy?
3. "We believe in the right to show our bodies." Do you agree with her?

BAR FINED FOR ALLOWING SMOKING

Popular bar O'Malley's was fined \$1,000 on Friday night for disobeying the new San Francisco city order which prohibits smoking in any public building. The owner plans to appeal against the fine before a hearing this afternoon. "I tell you, even if the fine stays, there's no way I'm going to make my loyal customers go outside in the cold to smoke," he said yesterday. His customers have offered a lot of support.

"Has the world gone mad? This is a bar! It's a place for vices," said one regular. "I can't drink without smoking!"

1. What do you think about this law?
2. What do you think the bar owner should do?
3. What was one customer's justification for smoking in the bar? Do you agree?

FOX HUNT SABOTEURS ARRESTED

Two men and a woman were arrested by police after pulling a man off his horse, causing him to break his arm. The incident happened as the three tried to stop a fox-hunt going ahead in the Sussex countryside in the south of England.

Several minutes of arguing had preceded the attack when the small group arrived with bells and whistles to confuse the dogs and horses. "Hunting foxes is murder," screamed one of the group before being led away by police.

1. Do you feel sympathetic towards the offenders in this article? Why? Why not?
2. Do you have any animal sports in your country which you think should be banned?

KU KLUX KLAN RALLY VIOLENCE

Four members of the Ku Klux Klan brotherhood were beaten up at a public rally in which KKK members were calling for "a cry for white freedom."

Tempers began to flare when the Klan members, dressed in traditional white robes, began their march through a predominantly black neighbourhood shouting "White power!" Locals took to the streets and showed their opposition, some using violence. Four men were arrested by the police.

"We are a peaceful organisation with the right to speak our minds," said one Klansman. "It's not our fault these people are animals."

1. Do you sympathise with the offenders?
2. The man from the KKK said they had 'the right to speak our minds'. Do you agree?
3. Should groups like the KKK be banned?

Language

Use the correct form of these verbs to complete the texts below:

sign *go on* *protest against*

I (1) a protest march tomorrow with Greenpeace to (2) the Japanese Government's policy on whaling. We are trying to get 5,000 people to (3) a petition, which we plan to hand in to the Japanese Embassy. This is something I feel very strongly about.

urge *campaign* *boycott*
ban *lobby* *carry out*

I belong to an organisation that (4) against animals being used to test cosmetics. We (5) politicians and consumer groups and (6) the general public to (7) companies that (8) experiments on animals. Our aim eventually is for the government to (9) all forms of animal exploitation in the cosmetics industry.

Discussion

Have you ever been on a protest march? What for?

Have you ever signed a petition? What for?

Have you ever boycotted a company or its products? Which ones? Why?

Do you think any of these actions make a difference? Which one is the most effective?

Newspaper language

Certain words are found almost exclusively in newspapers, particularly in headlines. Match the meanings on the right with the underlined words in the headlines below:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. POLICE <u>QUIZ</u> ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP | a. attempt |
| 2. NUDISTS <u>SEEK</u> MORE SUPPORT | b. fight |
| 3. MINISTER <u>BACKS</u> CANNABIS PLANS | c. interview |
| 4. FASCIST PARTY IN POWER <u>BID</u> | d. supports |
| 5. NEW CALLS TO <u>HALT</u> FUR TRADE | e. demand |
| 6. POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS <u>CLASH</u> IN CAPITAL | f. stop |
| 7. BOXING BAN <u>PLEA</u> | g. obstruct |
| 8. GREENPEACE <u>FOIL</u> WHALERS | h. look for |

Discussion

In small groups, decide whether any of the things below should be banned. Try to persuade the others in your group. Then take a vote for each one.

bullfighting	genetically modified (GM) food
fox-hunting	human cloning
cockfighting	alcohol
fishing	cigarettes
whale-hunting	marijuana
shooting	prostitution
gun clubs	pornography
military service	boxing
nuclear testing	soap operas
ballroom dancing	passports