

Law-related ideas

Should all laws apply to everyone?

Conscience provisions recognise that some people can refuse to obey the law but everyone else has to. Is this fair?

Should conscience be legally recognised in some circumstances (eg doing some form of national service, fighting in a war, religious education, vaccination, assisted dying, abortion, providing certain kinds of goods and services to some)?

If 12 months compulsory military service was introduced now for all 18-year-olds, should conscientious objection to the military or to state compulsion be recognised? If someone conscientiously objects to the military, should they be compelled to perform some other work (eg volunteering in the community)?

How would you write a law allowing some to conscientiously object to obeying it?

How can a court or tribunal tell if someone has a genuine conscientious objection?

Can it ever be justified or even right to disobey the law (eg when a person conscientiously objects, when the law is evil – law in Nazi Germany for instance or where slavery exists, to try to make society better).