

Equalities Tutor Time: Hair

Produced at Fullbrook School

With extra resources from:

BBC News

Huffington Post

Wikipedia

BBC Three

Solange Knowles

Big think



How important is it
to you to have
control over your
hair?



Challenge: Is all hair treated
equally?

What attitudes may people with these hair types, styles and coverings face?



Afro hair



Alopecia



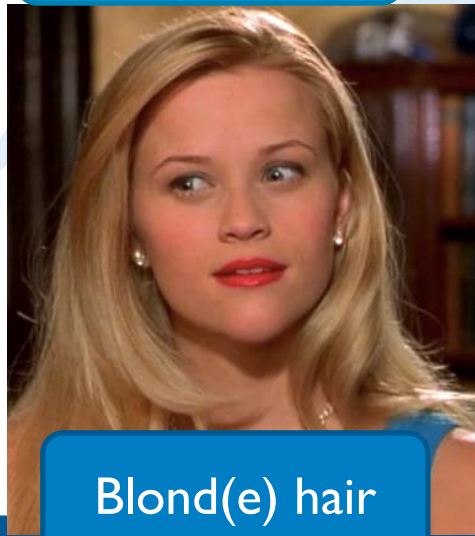
Dreadlocks



Braids



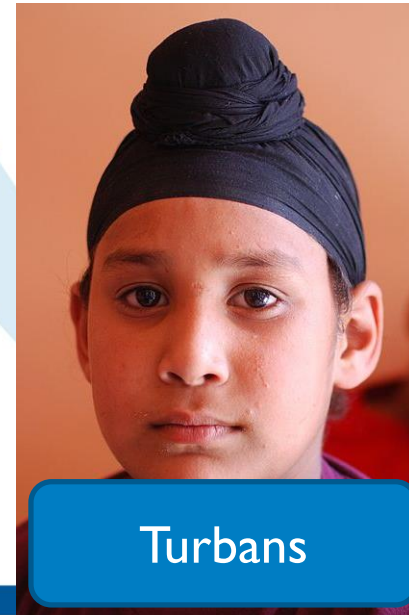
Headscarves



Blond(e) hair

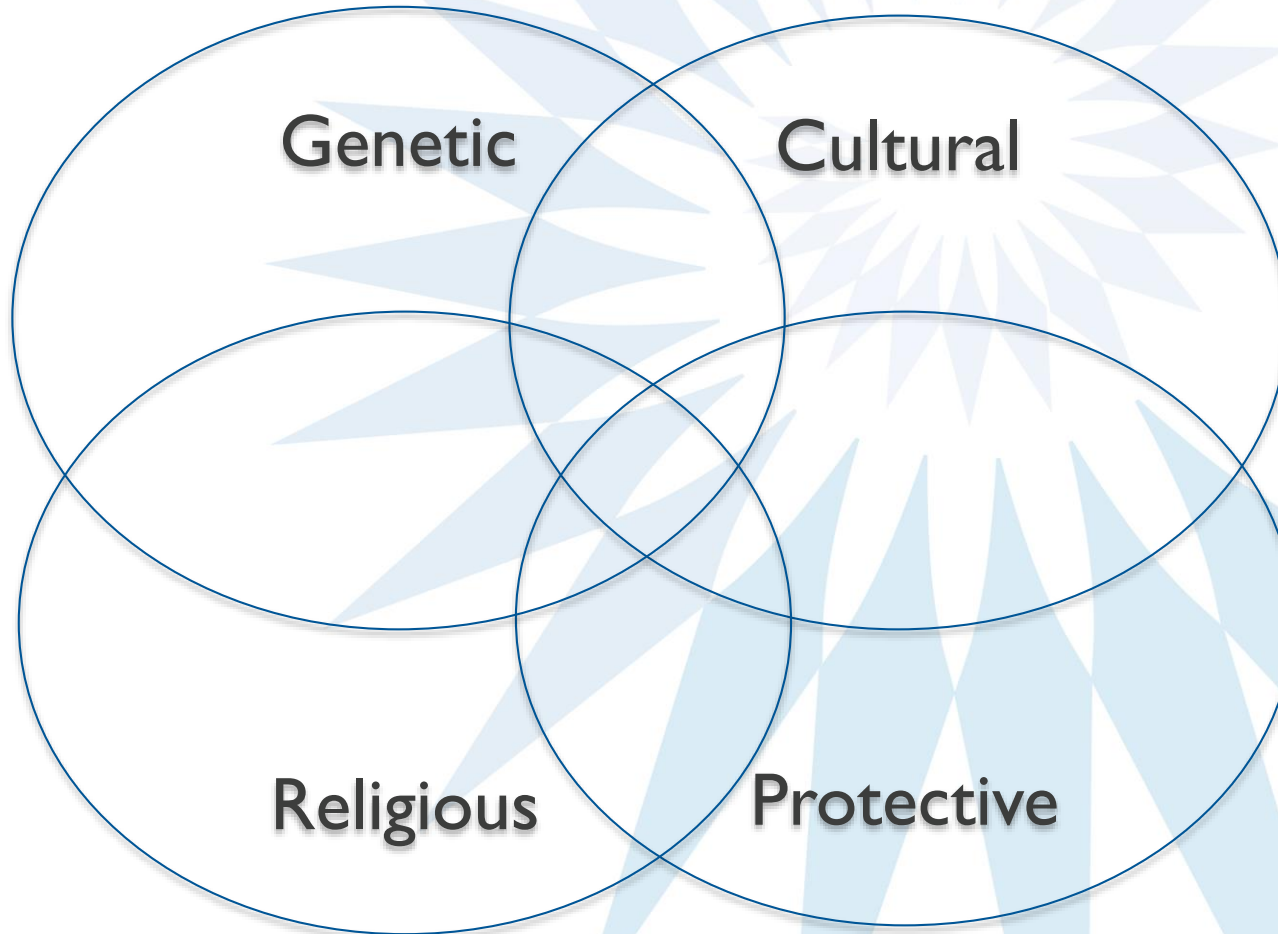


Ginger hair



Turbans

Why do these variations in hair expression exist?



Afro hair

Turban

Alopecia

Dreadlocks

Blond(e) hair

Headscarves

Ginger hair

Braids

Do any of these categories seem like a fair reason to discriminate against someone?

Hair based discrimination is surprisingly common – check out these news excerpts. What are your thoughts (click to get the full article).

'Wear a weave at work - your afro hair is unprofessional'

By Rozina Sini

In 2017, Fulston Manor School in Kent came under fire for [discriminating against a black girl](#) who wore braids with its uniform policy, and Fulham Boys' School in London told a boy to [cut his dreadlocks off](#). As recently as December 2018, a Surrey academy [threatened to exclude a pupil](#) for her “bantu knots”.

Australian school discriminated against turban-wearing boy

© 20 September 2017



Wearing the Muslim headscarf or veil - known as a hijab - is banned in French schools, and for public servants at their place of work.

Mum's fury after daughter, 5, with alopecia told to remove wig at school as it "breached health and safety"

Little Apryl Corbett was left “humiliated” during a PE lesson after teachers told her it “wasn't school uniform” and there was danger of classmate ripping it off

Surely discrimination isn't that bad for red-haired people... right? After all, the UK has some of the highest numbers of red-heads in the world...

“...individuals and families in Britain are targeted for harassment and violence because of their hair colour. In 2003, a 20-year-old was stabbed in the back for "being ginger".^[76] In 2007, a UK woman won an award from a tribunal after being sexually harassed and receiving abuse because of her red hair;^[77] in the same year, a family in [Newcastle upon Tyne](#), was forced to move twice after being targeted for abuse and hate crime on account of their red hair.^[78]

In May 2009, a schoolboy committed suicide after being bullied for having red hair.^[79] In 2013, a fourteen-year-old boy in [Lincoln](#) had his right arm broken and his head stamped on by three men who attacked him "just because he had red hair". The three men were subsequently jailed for a combined total of ten years and one month for the attack.^[80] ”



With all this discrimination going on, why might some people feel annoyed when people wear their cultural or religious styles just as fashion or costume that can be taken off on a whim?



Recently New York has changed the law to protect people from discrimination on the basis of their hair – click the picture to watch the video.



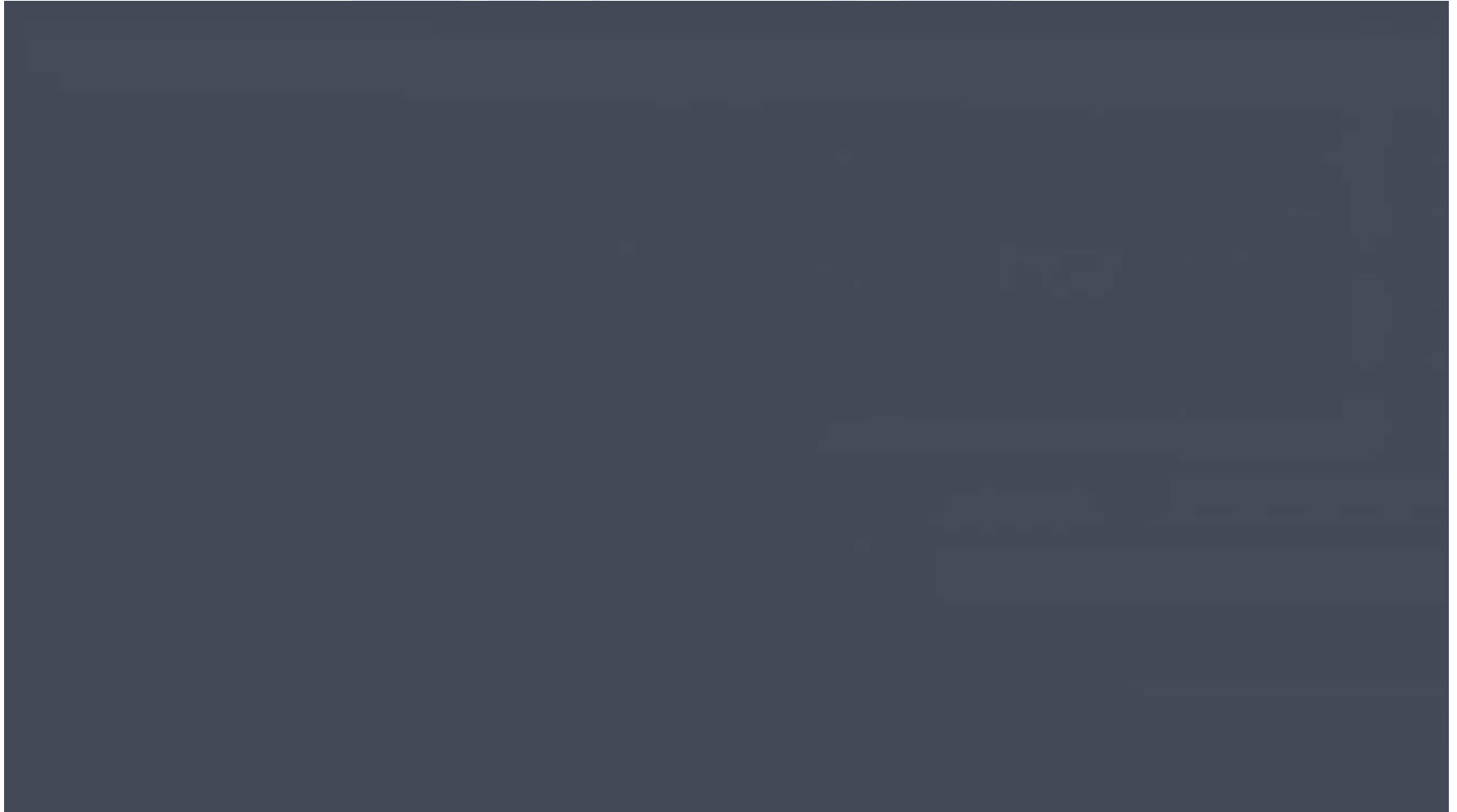
Discussion

Fullbrook sets out to be inclusive – do you think this is true of hair? Why or why not?

Does anything need to change? If so, what?

Should the UK adopt laws to protect people's cultural, genetic or religious styles? Or is this fair grounds to discriminate?

How can we be respectful? Let's watch this video on afro-hair and how



<https://youtu.be/68KWyisJ0tw>

Enjoy some Solange to play you out if you made it this far!

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HrMkpRpoB8>