

**Cultural Diversity and Moral  
Philosophy, and their Relationship  
with Families and the Upbringing of  
Children**

**Clem Henricson – The Family  
and Parenting Institute**

***' If we allow this to continue, we  
could end up....living in a New  
Orleans style Britain of passively co-  
existing ethnic and religious  
communities'* Trevor Phillips, 2005,  
Commission for Equality and Human  
Rights**

**Micro level - a growing body of work on the upbringing of children in different cultural settings, and a particular focus on the transmission of notions of citizenship and values.**

**Issues of principle and morality are pertinent here, in a society that is so distinctively not at ease with itself.**

**Diversity, social capital and families through a controversial lens associated with moral philosophy,**

**Is a considerable constituent element of universalism feasible in our multicultural society, and if so what might its scope be?**

**Absolutism**

**- a string of advocates from Plato, religious philosophers through to Descartes, G.E. Moore and Iris Murdoch.**

**Within Western tradition it threads through revelatory caring precepts associated with Christ-humanism and human rights.**

## Criticism of G.E. Moore's Principia Ethica

*"..he purported to show that moral judgements were based on an infallible and simple intuitive knowledge of what things were good. The things that were good, friendship, for example, or the contemplation of beauty, were just obviously so, to anyone who thought about the matter clearly."*

Warnock

## Relativism

**Relativism also has a mainstream tradition stemming from the Greeks - in this case sophists such as Gorgias and Protahoras, going through to Hobbes, Nietzsche, Foucault, Rorty and Cuppitt.**

***"What is a Story?" "Another story, another truth.... Truth is no longer something out there ; it is a way with words. The preacher, interpreter or artist is now making truth in the telling of a tale... The interpreter is no longer just a servant of the truth, but has become someone whose job is the endless production of truth."***

**Cupitt**

***"Gallop ing relativism" , Warnock***

**In the real world the point at which relativism fails is when the issues in question involve moral criteria , because this affects us all however tangentially . One person's actions affects another person's wellbeing.**

**Absence of external verification – a universal religion.**

**What we have when it comes to issues of moral conduct that affect us all - is norms – human rights.**

**Moral norms, in the widest interpretation of the phrase, that are capable of recognition outside religion in the secular side of society where we share or have the capacity to share our community; - a synthesis of ways of living from a humanist perspective.**

## **Human rights**

**With widespread international endorsement within a humanist ethic, they do provide us with the framework for moral development, - expectations of respect for family life and privacy, freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment, and the rest.**

**But -  
human rights not enough.**

**They are statements of entitlement, not of  
giving with its derivation in empathy,  
which is the essence of morality.**

**A complementary set of expectations  
associated with empathy?**

**Need to elaborate and develop a  
contextual understanding of  
empathetic care and its operation.**

**The caring professions?**

