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The purpose of the presentation is to show that our democracy is built on humanistic values such as freedom, equality and respect for the individual. The rights and duties of the individual must be viewed in context, and the presentation will emphasise that the rights of the individual are counterbalanced by the need of the State to govern and maintain control in various areas.
Norway is a democracy and a monarchy

- The Norwegian Constitution is built on three fundamental principles:
  - Democracy is the form of government
  - The separation of powers between the Storting, the Government and the courts
  - Human rights
- Norway is a monarchy.
- The Storting is Norway’s national assembly.
General elections and local elections

- Free and secret ballots are a precondition for democracy.
- Norway has a multi-party political system.
- Political elections are held every other year. The elections alternate between
  - general elections, in which representatives from all over the country are elected to the Storting.
  - local elections, in which representatives are elected to local, city and county councils.
- The voting age in Norway is 18.
The Sami people and the Sami Parliament

- The Sami are a population group in Norway with the status of indigenous people.
- The Sami people live in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.
- The Sami have their own Parliament, which was opened in 1989.
- The Sami Parliament is an elected body tasked with safeguarding Sami interests, languages and culture.
Principle of the separation of powers

- The power of the State is divided between three separate branches. The purpose of the separation of powers is to prevent the politicians from abusing their powers.
Rights and duties, freedom and responsibility

- In a democracy, the citizens have duties as well as rights.
- Rights are balanced by duties, freedom is balanced by responsibilities.
The fundamental values on which a democracy rests

- Equality
- The right to protection under the law
- Freedom of speech and freedom of the press
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of association
Equality is a fundamental value

- Equality means that everyone enjoys equal rights and equal opportunities.
- Equality encompasses everyone, irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, ability or age.
- Protection against discrimination is an important aspect of the policy of equality.
Norway is a state governed by the rule of law

- Norway is a state governed by the rule of law.
- Due process is an important principle in a country governed by the rule of law.
  - No one can be sentenced to any form of punishment unless the action of which they are accused is a criminal offence.
  - No one can be sentenced to imprisonment without first having been tried in a court of law.
  - Anyone charged in criminal proceedings has the right to be defended by counsel.
  - The courts are independent of the Government and the Storting.
Freedom of speech and freedom of the press

- The expression of most opinions and ideas is permitted in Norway, although freedom of expression is subject to some restrictions under a number of laws prohibiting discrimination, harassment and hate speech.
- Freedom of speech, freedom of information and freedom of the press are part of the foundations on which a democracy is built.
Freedom of religion

- There is full freedom of religion and belief in Norway.
- Freedom of religion and belief means that
  - Everyone is at liberty to choose which religion or faith they wish to follow.
  - Everyone has the right to choose whether or not they wish to belong to a religion or faith.
- No-one can be persecuted or punished because of their religion or faith.
Freedom of association

- Freedom of association means the right to belong to trade unions, political parties or special interest groups.
- Freedom of association is an important right in working life.

Diskusjon:
- Why is freedom of association important in a democracy?
Trust is a characteristic feature of Norwegian society

- Norwegian society is characterised by a high degree of trust.
- Trust is an essential value.
Calling in sick

**Case:**
- Axel: Hello, is that Ida? I’m afraid I can’t come in to work today because I have a high temperature and a headache.
- Ida: Oh dear, I’m sorry to hear that. We are supposed to have a meeting tomorrow. Should I postpone it?
- Axel: That’s probably a good idea. I don’t think I’ll be able to come in tomorrow either.
- Ida: Ok. I’ll postpone the meeting. Phone me and let me know how you are getting on. Get well soon!

**Discussion:**
What is there about this situation that shows that a relationship of trust exists between the employee and the employer?
Abuse of trust

**Case:**
Georg has just lost his job as a mechanic in a large car repair workshop. As a result, he has signed on as unemployed and is receiving unemployment benefit from NAV while he looks for a new job.

He has a friend who runs a small garage. Georg has been working there on a regular basis since losing his job, but has not informed NAV. Georg is working illegally. This means that he is not paying tax, and the friend who runs the garage is not paying national insurance contributions on Georg’s pay.

Georg has been receiving unemployment benefit from NAV and pay on which tax has not been paid for several months. Georg tells himself that this is fair because his living expenses are high and he has 3 children to support.
Abuse of trust, contd.

**Discussion:**

- Talk about the situation described above. In what way is what Georg is doing an abuse of trust?
- If he is discovered, what consequences could this have for Georg?