

MAZELTOV

— Innovation & Justice —

This digest includes updates from Mazeltov - Innovation and Justice and opinion pieces by our young team members on various social justice challenges.

This effort is with an aim to amplify and empower young voices from all over the world.



All in a month

by Moshiuzzaman

Mazeltov – Innovation & Justice (MIJ) successfully launched its Fellowship Programme in September, with fellows joining from 6 different nations across the world. MIJ's Technical Advisor, Prof. Nicholas Ryder, from the University of the West of England, Bristol, presented a lecture on “Counter-terrorism financing – the United Nations, NATO, 9/11 and Afghanistan – a reflection” for the fellows as part of the fellowship's ongoing effort to provide a comprehensive learning experience.

MIJ also presented on “[Refugee Crises and Collective Responses](#)” at the [10th Asia Pro Bono Conference organised by BABSEACLE](#). The presentation was met with resounding success. Furthermore, MIJ hosted several webinars and lectures on an array of contemporary issues, including a webinar on the “[Prospects of Digitalization for Startups in South Asia.](#)” The episode forms part of a series that will lend to research and discourse into the factors that foster start-up culture in the region.

Gender Inequality in Afghanistan: The need for social justice

by Aisha Ahmed

Afghanistan has consistently witnessed a male dominant society, subject to ingrained gender discriminatory attitudes and underlying misogyny. In light of the new governmental regime that has decided to adopt stringent and regressive laws and policies, Afghan women continue to face aggravated facets of gender inequality in terms of representation in the workforce, exercising the right to education and having free will.

The aggrieved, marginalized women have little to no say in how they expect to be governed, given the “all-male” government that favours upholding a patriarchal stance.



Temporary school closure for women and radical measures against women protestors sufficiently denote the discriminatory upheaval. The retrogressive takeover is raising concerns of forced child marriages, honour killings, deteriorating health and hygiene conditions for women at home and otherwise, which, if not opposed, shall degenerate the society therein as a whole.

In addition to the prevalent social injustice pertaining to education and employment, there have been prominent instances of violence against women to forcibly assert a certain set

of values upon them such as shooting dead a woman for not dressing “as deemed appropriate.”

Women make up about 48.68% of Afghanistan’s total population (as reported in 2020) and limiting their rights and opportunities reeks of a conservative approach that violates fundamental human rights and curtails individual as well as national progress. The abhorrent social injustice in Afghanistan calls for immediate measures to globally vocalise the plight of Afghan women in order for them to attain autonomy over their lives.

Sustainable Development Goal - 16 and the refugee crises

by Ali Imtinan and Mazna Khan

Following the Taliban's seizure of Afghanistan, the United Kingdom has pledged to take in 20,000 Afghan refugees.

As part of the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the government has committed to welcome around 5,000 refugees in the first year and up to 20,000 over the coming years. The scheme will give priority to women, children, and those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan. As well as, members of ethnic and religious minority groups. The scheme seems to signal a positive effort towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 which is to ‘promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.’

In prioritising children, the scheme aims for the achievement of SDG target 16.2., which calls for ending abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children.

By providing a mechanism for Afghan refugees to enter and resettle legally, the scheme contributes towards curbing the use of dangerous human trafficking syndicates by refugees who were previously denied legal entry into the country.

Children account for 30 per cent of those who are trafficked, and a report by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children identifies that refugee and stateless children are most vulnerable to falling prey to smugglers, commercial sexual exploitation, and being recruited by armed groups as child soldiers. A Trafficking in Persons Report by the United States Department of State further highlights that Afghan child refugees, in particular, are lured by trafficking units under the guise of assisting in their travel, only to eventually subject them to forced labour and domestic servitude. Thus, the resettlement project holds instrumental significance in curbing exploitation and trafficking of children in line with SDG target 16.2.

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