



Pursuit of Social Justice - a Never-Ending Battle

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The countless refugees seeking asylum in Europe have awakened us to the need for social justice. Conflicts between the black and the white in the US have also led to grave concern for social justice. Whenever there is news about bullying, inequality or discrimination, there is a consensus that social justice has to be upheld. No one will deny that social justice is a universal core value. But can we ever achieve social justice?

Islam has approximately 1.6 billion followers, making up 23% of the world population. However, after the 9/11 attack in 2001, perhaps to some of us, Muslims are no different from terrorists. From a Muslim chaplain being denied a can of diet Coke on a US domestic flight several months ago to Muslim workers suffering from workplace discrimination, Muslims have gradually become the victims of hate and bias crimes. But are you aware that this kind of prejudice is social injustice?

As a matter of fact, social injustice is still a worldwide phenomenon. There are always voices that are never heard in society. While the poor are suffering from hunger, tons of food is wasted every day. The problem of child labour

still exists today. Different types of discrimination are still haunting us. Social justice simply means that every single one of us should be treated with respect and dignity. But unfortunately, this is very often not the case.

So how can we achieve social justice? No doubt, legislation and education are effective measures. But in my opinion, love is the best weapon against social injustice. Love empowers us to show concern for others regardless of their gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, culture or disability. Love is the main driving force that ensures peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations.

February 20 has been proclaimed the World Day of Social Justice by the United Nations. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon once said, "Social justice is more than an ethical imperative. It is the foundation for national stability and global prosperity." So 'Let's fight for social justice' is not just a slogan. The pursuit of social justice is not a mission impossible. It is a never-ending battle. It is only when we love one another that we can win this battle and build a world where freedom, dignity and equality are guaranteed for all people.