



JUSTICE CMMBAIS

COLEGIO CLAUSTRO MODERNO MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

March 20-21, 27-28, 2021 - Bogotá, COLOMBIA

FINAL ACCORD

The challenge of the Colegio Claustro Moderno MBA International Symposium 2021 is for students, after examining the evolution of justice, its role, and its impact on the individual, to suggest the practical steps they can take to improve the provision of justice in their own society, in order to achieve or to mitigate the most fundamental issues facing that society.

- Timothy Parkinson-

Justice is not sedentary, but a multifaceted concept that is constantly developing over time to reflect society's changing morals and ethical values. The evolution of justice globally has a powerful impact upon individuals and minorities alike. However justice is subjective, meaning that one's perception of justice is based on a combination of their culture, socioeconomic status and creed. It is widely acknowledged that our global society lacks the provision of justice in many areas where it is so necessary. In a constantly changing world, a nuanced and ever-changing approach to justice is required. In our accord, we focused largely on the issues of animal welfare, economic equality, freedom of religion, voter suppression, education, corruption, prison rehabilitation and health. It is our obligation as part of this symposium and as future citizens of the world to be honest, to reflect upon the shortcomings of our world in terms of justice and suggest practical solutions to our most important issues.

Animal Welfare

One of the greatest violations of justice in human society is the systematic torture and murder of non-human animals. Religion aside, the key distinctions that humans find between us and other animals also distinguish some people from others. Intelligence and physical ability are relevant examples. The great unifier of all animals is our ability to experience pain and pleasure. The government should not permit animals to be treated as objects to be taken advantage of, and should instead recognize them as sentient beings. Other benefits of such action are the mitigation of climate change and the improvement of human health. While outlawing the consumption of animal products is not yet feasible, there are positive steps that can be taken. Factory farming should be outlawed. If animals are going to be killed, they should at least be content while they are alive. The other step that should be taken is to reform the farm bill. The production of a greater variety of healthy plant foods should be incentivized. Corn, wheat, and soy should be less subsidized, and meat production should be more heavily taxed. Food prices should generally go down, but meat prices should go up, which will lead to a shift away from meat.

Economic Equality

When engaging with this issue, we believe that social mobility is paramount. People should be able to advance in society based on their merit and simply by virtue of their humanity. It is unjust that people of above average skills and intellect cannot advance in society because of the circumstances that they are born into. To rectify these injustices, we propose either Universal Basic Income (UBI) or a negative income tax. Under UBI, a certain amount of financial security is guaranteed and provided to everyone in the form of government-provided income to the entire populace. This system would ensure that everyone can provide for their own basic wellbeing and allow people to transition between jobs more easily, facilitating greater entrepreneurship and productivity of the workforce. Under a negative income tax, the poor people would be treated the same as the rich are in the tax system. The poor would be provided a portion of their income in the form of a negative income tax from the government. This would allow people with tax deductibles to still benefit from them even if they are in poverty. It also incentivises work because people still make greater income from more work, while at the same time fighting the effects of poverty. Either one of these policies would greatly advance economic justice in every nation by creating an economy that works for everyone and advancing the just ideal of social mobility.

Freedom of Religion

Justice for religious people in every country is critical in society. In the United States, the "free exercise" clause protects the free exercise of religion for all people. Even laws that might benefit society have been struck down because of this clause. In *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), The Supreme Court ruled that the Wisconsin public school system could not require the Yoder children to violate their Amish religion by forcing them to attend school until the age of 16. In *Masterpiece Cakeshop vs. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, the Supreme Court ruled that a Christian baker does not have to bake a unique cake for a gay wedding since supporting a gay wedding violates his religious beliefs. In *Holt v. Hobbs*, the Supreme Court ruled that a Muslim prisoner is allowed to grow a beard in accordance with his religious beliefs, despite breaking the prison rules. The justice system has time and again affirmed the right to freely exercise religion, and religious freedoms are an area where every country in the world must grow. Despite inconveniences that it might cause, freedom of religion must be an absolute right in every country so long as it is not being used to violate the negative rights of another.

Voter Suppression

Election integrity is a vital issue to democracies around the world, constituting the fabric of a stable and representative society. Issues such as redistricting allow legislators to choose their voters instead of voting choosing legislators, and intrusive voter-ID laws target predominantly nonwhite communities in order to prevent them from voting. Legislative solutions include limiting arbitrary voter ID laws, increasing voting hours, and eliminating the undue influence of political parties over the voting process by requiring the use of independent commissions to draw district lines. It is vital that we repair this issue, to ensure we have a democracy that is accessible to all.

Climate Change and Education

Education is a critical agent in addressing the issue of climate change. We already live in very hegemonic, commodified, and marketised environments built on extractive processes. This way education can encourage people to change their attitudes and behavior, and helps them to make informed decisions. When a big mobilized movement is created with the same goal, it is harder for the government to ignore petitions, protests and demands. After we create a unifying message, there is an emergence of political pressure for politicians to adopt environmental regulations for corporations. Under the Status Quo, this is not happening and half of the population doesn't even believe in climate change. Thus, the government can brush off this topic and doesn't feel obligated to implement climate related laws. When the government sees that people are clearly demanding explicit things, they can create "green" government operations where they minimize an entity's environmental impact, including its energy use, water use, waste and pollution generation, and greenhouse gas emissions. It helps young people to understand and address the impact of global warming, encourages changes in their attitudes and behaviour, and adapts to climate change-related trends. Social movements can convince authorities to re-examine and possibly change their policy preferences. Environmental rights should not only be discussed publicly, but it should be implemented into the Constitution and create a judicial foundation for the environment.

By uniting, however loosely, a broad range of groups and individuals and taking action, social movements can influence public policy, at least by bringing attention to their issues. Most importantly climate change related trends apply to the individual which is the main purpose in achieving social justice. What we will do is what will define us for the next generations. We need to remind ourselves of the power that we gain when we truly understand the importance of active civic engagement in governments for all segments of society.

Youth Disenfranchisement

In order for the youth of any society to be more confident in taking up leadership spaces, more avenues should be set up in governmental institutions for youth involvement. Such spaces will not only enhance leadership qualities in the young people who will eventually hold these same governmental positions, but will also expose what needs to be changed in the spaces themselves, for the strong development of the society. Likewise, the youth will be instilled with the desire to have their voices heard and not feel sidelined in any governmental decision-making. Thus, we propose the creation of youth committees in every government ministry.

Education

Given the world's current happenings, we believe that education plays an important role, especially in children's early development years, towards understanding the world. Rather than silencing or eliminating diverse opinions, education must teach young people to respect and embrace diversity in order to redress inequality. Change starts with changing mindsets. Teaching students the current academic syllabus along with concepts of respect for one another, the ability and willingness to listen to the opposition, and understanding different viewpoints can significantly boost the way we think and therefore reduce the need for having to seek justice in the first place. Emphasis not only on academical education, but also on social education in the form of academic debates on government issues should be conducted so students can critically analyse a situation. Implementation of technological tools will make education more accessible and effective. As Mr. Carlos Medellín mentioned in his speech, following the principles of justice is what is most important. Live honestly. Do not harm others. Give everybody what's theirs.

Equal access to education

Unequal access to education is an issue most countries in the modern world are facing. There is a need to eliminate or put major limitations to the impact of socioeconomic background on access to education since it progressively inclines towards regional and socioeconomic segregation. It favors hatred based on those metrics. It could also lead to one's entering of the toxic cycle of poverty and limit social mobility. If we want to come closer to a society that provides equal opportunity to everyone then this worldwide problem needs to be addressed.

There are certain steps that can be taken to ensure if not perfectly equal than at least a more just access to education. Those include the existence of state funded educational institutions on all levels of the education system (including universities), where students would have the chance to receive education without paying any fees. This also significantly reduces student debt which also mostly affects people from poorer families. In most countries there should be a general increase in funding in education. States should also provide scholarships for students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, based on factors such as family income or the education of their parents. Special attention should be paid to people from historically disadvantaged ethnic or racial minorities. The state should also provide financial support for out of school educational programs. The current pandemic has taught us that lack of access to the internet or certain technologies necessary for communication in the modern world can prevent children from accessing proper education, so governments should ensure that those are accessible to all and provide finances for them to poorer families if necessary.

Prison Rehabilitation and Reform

Formerly incarcerated individuals should be granted full integration and rights once they return to society. In countries like the US, the formerly incarcerated are often denied the right to vote, access to vital government services, and access to employment. In effect, the formerly incarcerated are relegated to a legal subclass, barred from participation in their democracy and economy. It is vital that in our societies we seek to rehabilitate our prisoners and integrate them back into society, rather than being barred from participation. The reformative theory of justice promotes a world in which prisoners are able to make their way back into society, in a safe and humane way.

Women's Health

Women's rights around the world can be vastly improved by access to birth control. Such vital access allows women to pursue job opportunities otherwise limited by childcare, allowing half of the population access to the labor force and massively benefiting the greater economy.

Equality for all

All over the world we are able to recognise a significant disregard for minorities whether it is based on the facets of race, gender, age, religion or other. This has been reflected through our struggle to combat social, economical and political issues in all countries. Simultaneously, to resolve such a prevalent and systematic issue, we must pursue modernised and progressive approaches including: reparations, education, and recognition, if we ever want to see the disregard of our minorities be dissolved and equality for all to prevail. Moreover, reparations would require giving back to historically oppressed peoples, which is relevant in most countries of the world. Likewise, access to education is also crucial everywhere to avoid the toxic cycle of relative poverty which increases the disadvantage of individuals. Ultimately, it is important that we are honest about the disadvantages present in our various societies and work collaboratively toward structural social change in regards to equality for all.

Justice Systems

In order to ensure Justice in all of the above-mentioned areas, countries all around the world need to have trustworthy justice systems. First, a justice system shall not be termed 'trustworthy' if arriving at a just decision takes years or decades. Therefore, increasing the courts' capacities and improving the efficiency by taking advantage of the contemporary technological possibilities (e.g. digitising cases, using AI support etc.) might be a feasible solution. Second, to make sure the public trusts that the system is proper, the people in the high positions (especially those elected by other branches such as the general prosecutors) should be appointed in a publicly transparent manner. Last but not least, the systems' decisions must be righteous and respected, which will not happen if the judges making all those decisions are not. Including a sizable chunk of character development classes in the law schools might help solve the problems of corrupt practices amongst judges and hence help the general public regain the trust in the justice system in their country.

Corruption

Corruption, as a problem occurring in both developed and developing countries, does not only cause the inefficient use of public funding and thus slows down the development but it generally decreases the trust in public institutions, governments, and the individual's ability to reach justice. For those reasons, countries should strengthen their anti-corruption laws tackling all petty, grand, and systemic corruption. An important step towards the elimination of corruption is to increase transparency in the public sector through the implementation of mandatory property and assets declarations for high public servants, increasing the transparency of public procurement, and creating a strong conflict of interest legislation. These steps would not only limit corruption as such but also shrink the space for corruption to occur.

By the same token, it is important to improve the Judicial Branch accountability and increase information regarding justice services, seeking public access, by implementing and developing technological tools so that everyone knows how they can approach the formal justice system.

Conclusion

Justice should be the backbone to a diverse and ever evolving civilisation. Justice should be blind to race, socio-economic status, gender, age or creed. Yet, justice is in the eye of the beholder. This poses one of the most complex questions contemplated by academics and government bureaucrats alike: how can justice be provided to mitigate the issues amongst such a diverse and ever changing social climate of the entirety of the world? Through our exploration of the issues within the evolution of justice in our world we have proposed numerous practical steps necessary in our contemporary fight for social justice, yet it is far from a final or complete solution. Just as justice is always evolving, so will its real-world application.