

## Racism impacts people's lives and mental health



Azeem Rafiq's harrowing testimony and allegations of institutional racism to a parliamentary committee last month was seen as a wake-up call. Not only to the ECB and Yorkshire County Cricket Club, but also to wider society.

The ramifications of English cricket's racism scandal has ensured several of England's most famous players, both past and present, have either

apologised or issued robust denials. The bullying and harassment that Rafiq was found to have been subjected to at Headingley has ensured the use of the word P\*\*I has come to the fore.

He said: "Pretty early on, me and other people from an Asian background, there were comments such as 'you'll sit over there near the toilets' and 'elephant washers'. The

word 'Paki' was used constantly. And there just seemed to be an acceptance in the institution from the leaders and no one ever stamped it out."

His emotional description of the effects of racism was regarded by many as a hugely significant moment in a much bigger debate around race relations, Islamophobia and division in Britain today.

# It is time to accept that the P-word is as bad as the N-word



**A**zeem Rafiq himself has also rightly apologised after it emerged that he sent anti-semitic messages to a friend when he was only a teenager. He admitted he is deeply ashamed of them, and for an Instagram meme containing a saying relating to African people.

It was the latest in a series of twists in a story that began just over a year ago when he first went public with allegations of racism, and which then ignited into a national scandal.

Just as the N-word has been reclaimed by members of the black community, after the Black Lives Matter movement was formed in response to the murder of Trayvon Martin and George Floyd, young British Asians, many of whom have had the P word levelled against them as a racial slur, believe it is time British Asians who are engaged in a similar quandary about the P word, helped to consign such disgraceful

language to the dark ages of colonial slander when defamation of people of colour was rife.

Many of us have been subjected to the P word too often in our formative years, which still stirs up memories of bowver boots, skinheads and “Paki-bashing.”

The origins of the P-word, as it is known in so called civilised society, was seemingly first used in 1964, when hostility in Britain to immigrants from the Asian sub-continent, was rife.

Despite being an abbreviation for “Pakistani”, it is used as a derogatory term against anyone with brown skin, be they Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi.

However, non-Asians who happen to have a dark complexion have also found themselves on the receiving end. Over fifty years on, the use of the word is still highly sensitive and has the potential

to cause great offence. Nowadays, it is also quite often insidious, hidden from explicit view, and therefore hard to prove, detect or report on.

Therefore, the abuse experienced by British Asians – and people of colour – may no longer be as physical as it once was. But it is thriving, the P-word is simply a linguistic vehicle which drives the venom.

In November 2018, a video went viral showing the then 15-year-old Jamal Hijazi, a Syrian refugee in Huddersfield, being physically attacked by pupils at his school.

Jamal was choke-slammed akin to the manner in which WWE legend, the Undertaker used to dispose of his opponents by slamming them to the floor, but this was done by a fellow pupil called Bailey McLaren.

Jamal had been bullied for weeks before the video of the attack went viral. And although his father had complained to the school, the local council and the police, condemnation did not surface until the video reared its ugly head, garnering condemnation from politicians.

However, Tommy Robinson came to the defence of the perpetrator and spoke at rallies against the Hijazis and denied the attack as being racially motivated. Robinson even posted a sit-down interview

with the McLaren family on his YouTube channel. However, Hijazi said: “They always called me ‘P\*ki’, they never called me by my name.”

In January 2019, a video showing football fans singing “I’d rather be a P\*ki than a Scouse!” during a home game against a Liverpool based club, ensured comments on news websites that covered the story were littered with the slur by keyboard warriors who were indulging in celebratory racism after post-Brexit Britain.

The standard has been set by our emboldened prime minister, Boris Johnson, who scoffs and mutters non-apologies while being asked about his extensive CV of diversely offensive journalism: describing black people as “flag-waving piccaninnies” with “watermelon smiles”; comparing niqab-wearing Muslim women to bank robbers and letter boxes and more.

These are a handful of examples of the P-word’s power amongst those who indulge in such filthy language. However, now is the time to say enough and consign the word to where it truly belongs – on the scrap heap of Britain’s colonial past.

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## PAIGAAM EDITORIAL

# Can we really eliminate racism from society?

For Black, Asian and people from the minority communities racism for most people is usually a fact of life.

It is something we are used to in our daily lives. Whether it is in employment, in schools, whilst out shopping, or in the streets or wherever it may be.

Growing up in the small sleepy town of Batley as a young child my most profound memories of secondary school in the late sixties and early 70s is that we had to endure the ritual of "paki bashing".

At the end of every term the Asian pupils had to clench their fists and run as fast as we could down the hill to avoid being physically beaten by gangs of older white kids.

Interestingly enough the Heads during those periods and teachers were fully aware of what was happening but took no action to stop it.

Years later after I left school I became aware that the school finally took some action. What was this action you may ask? The answer is, it allowed the Asian pupils to leave some minutes earlier to avoid being beaten up. The school did not see fit to take any action to tackle racism and educate the white pupils. That was the environment we lived in at the time.

After I left school my first job was working in a Government Department in Dewsbury where I experienced overt racism from some colleagues.

One such example was a white older woman would never speak to me and she used to give out sweets to colleagues but purposely miss me out. I was a young inexperienced lad in those days and didn't know what to do.

I could see the embarrassment on the faces of other white colleagues but they never bothered to challenge this racist woman.

When I eventually went to the Head of my section he took no interest in my complaints and blamed me for being a trouble maker. This is a classic example of experiences of minority people. This same experience is stereotypical of the experience of racism.

Even over the years this classic example has persisted with minority people being blamed when they whistle blow. All over the country organisations have persisted with this behaviour and abuse and discrimination has been rife in society.

Racism is also embedded in the English language with white representing pure and positive and black for bad and negative.

Additionally, minority people don't really know what to call themselves as the term BAME is used to refer to us as a blanket term but does it really sit well with us?

Over the years in this country there has been some progress in tackling overt racism but then there is some incident that blows open racist activity. We have seen examples in football and now the decade of racism at Yorkshire County Cricket Club against Asian players has been exposed following the brave actions of the cricketer Azeem Rafiq.

So racism is under spotlight once again and questions are being asked about institutional racism and whether organisations are succeeding in eliminating this. Then we realise we have been here before as we recall the Macpherson Report following the death of Stephen Lawrence.

The problem with Institutional racism is that it disadvantages minority communities and affects the life chances and has much wider implications.

For Muslims we have the additional problem of Islamophobia and that is really having a lot of negative impact. The problem is whether the wider society really wants to tackle this. So what do you think?

Can we really eliminate racism from society?

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# We can all help to save Earth

A deal aimed at staving off dangerous climate change was recently struck at the COP26 summit in Glasgow.

The aim of the COP26 summit was to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations 'at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system'.

The COP was an opportunity for participants to review emissions reported by countries, assess the effects of any actions taken, and monitor progress towards the overall aim, to limit climate change.

Climate analysts believe that current policies in place around the world will lead to about a 2.9C increase in average global temperatures by 2100. Therefore, the plan to significantly cut emissions cuts along with how to deliver them were agreed. It must be noted that in 2018, the UK was responsible for just 1.1%

of global greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, the top five emitting countries together – China, USA, India, Russia, and Japan – account for 58% of all the world's greenhouse gases, with China alone responsible for 28% of global emissions.

However, the agreement promises more money for developing countries in order to help them adapt to climate impacts.

A commitment to phase out coal that was included in earlier negotiation drafts led to a dramatic finish after India and China led opposition to it with India's climate minister Bhupender Yadav questioning just how developing countries would be able to phase out coal and fossil fuel subsidies when they "have still to deal with their development agendas and poverty eradication."

After a great deal of mediation, the first ever climate deal to explicitly plan to reduce coal, which is said to be the worst

fossil fuel for greenhouse gases was eventually agreed as the countries agreed to "phase down" rather than "phase out" and "limit coal use", which is said to be the worst fossil fuel for greenhouse gases.

Coal is responsible for about 40% of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, making it central in efforts to keep within the 1.5C target. To meet this goal, global emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and to nearly zero by mid-century.

Additional points include re-visiting emissions-cutting plans next year to try to keep 1.5C target reachable and also increased financial help for developing countries.

However, COP26 President Alok Sharma expressed his disappointment and said he was "deeply sorry" for how events had unfolded and lambasted the fact that the entire agreement does not don't go far enough to limit temperature rise to 1.5C. Lars Koch, a policy director for the

charity ActionAid, questioned why only coal was mentioned whilst oil and gas were not.

"This gives a free pass to the rich countries who have been extracting and polluting for over a century to continue producing oil and gas," he said.

## How will COP26 affect us?

The UK's greenhouse gas emissions record is a respectable one. Annual UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions fell 49% between 1990 and 2020, from more than 800 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (mtCO<sub>2</sub>e) to just over 400 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e.

The British government has already put climate change targets into law, committing the country to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

Technically, we know how to achieve much of this, and significant changes are happening behind the scenes without the need for consumers to act.





By switching from coal and oil-fired power stations to renewables like wind and solar, the decarbonisation of the electricity grid is already well under way. The tricky bit is about how to successfully implement other solutions, like cutting emissions from our cars and homes, the government will need businesses and individuals to actively participate.

The ban on new petrol and diesel cars from 2030 will require drivers to switch to electric vehicles. While the government must ensure there is a reliable, user-friendly charging network accessible throughout the country, car makers have been tasked with reducing the cost of electric cars, improve battery range, and speed up charging times, in order to make them affordable and convenient to own and drive.

Householders will also be asked to insulate their homes and switch to low-carbon heating, ahead of the phase-out of gas boilers. Improved products from manufacturers, more highly-skilled installers,

and financial incentives from the government will all be needed to help everyone make the transition to a zero-carbon home.

#### **What can people do at home?**

Consumers have a role to play as most of us own things imported from all over the world, but we can all buy less and buy better.

Buying better isn't about buying British – although that is sometimes the most sustainable choice – but about trying to be a more conscious consumer. We can conduct some research into where and how products are made, who makes them and how sustainable they are.

In addition, we can buy energy efficient and sustainable products that are designed to last. We can also choose the most energy-efficient appliances, save money by using things you already own; thus ensuring we re-use, re-purpose, and upcycle. If the product you're looking for doesn't have to be brand new, why not swap, borrow, hire,

or buy it second-hand instead. They might be small actions, but consumers can make a difference by demanding better environmental information from retailers and manufacturers, and by choosing sustainable products.

#### **What does Islam say about climate change?**

Islam teaches its followers to take care of the earth. Muslims believe that humans should act as guardians of the planet, and that they will be held accountable by the Almighty for their actions. This concept was used in the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change in 2015 to propel change in environmental policy in Muslim countries.

The declaration called for all Muslims: “wherever they may be to tackle habits, mindsets, and the root causes of climate change, environmental degradation, and the loss of biodiversity in their particular spheres of influence, following the example of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and bring about a resolution to the challenges that now face us.”

Muslim organisations across the UK have also called for world leaders to take swift, effective action against climate change.

“The joint statement is a bold declaration on the need for urgency in the face of the climate crisis,” said Kamran Shezad, The Director of the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES/EcoIslam).

”British Muslims feel they, along with others in the many faith communities of these islands, have to stand up to be counted and demand that COP26 delivers for the most vulnerable, and a safer, greener, future for all.”

Only a few weeks before COP26, Muslim organisations issued a joint statement demanding climate justice, a just transition to a green economy and more support for the most vulnerable.

The statement is the first by a major coalition of Muslim organisations on climate change. It has been signed by 8 national Muslim bodies and umbrella organizations in the UK which represent a large number of the countries’ combined 2.7 million Muslim population.



# The parks that time forgot

**R**esidents in Woodsome Estate and Park Croft have labelled Woodsome Park and Jessops Park as the “biggest blights” in the area.

The parks have recently been the centre of attention over fears they are giving the area a bad reputation because the parks look like dilapidated parks that time forgot.

A resident of Woodsome Estate told Paigaam that there is no difference to Woodsome Park and Jessops Park to when he was playing in the parks as a child, over 25 years ago.

“I played in both parks as a kid and they look exactly the same way they did over 30 years ago,” said the resident.

“They are the parks that time forgot. There is no excuse for the Woodsome Park and Jessops Park to be so filthy. The lack of funding and investment in the area at large as opposed to other areas within Kirklees has endeared

the area to drug pushers and those who engage in anti-social behaviour along with gangs.”

Another resident laid the finger of blame at Kirklees Council: “The area has been disregarded by the council in order to invest in other parts of the borough such as Huddersfield. Investment is urgently needed so that youngsters can play safely instead of being a burden to people like us.

“Issues such as drug dealing in our own areas and the lack of funding need to be addressed. Simply look at the state of the parks for yourselves and you will see how run down they actually are.”

Another resident said it is impossible for children to play in the areas safely without getting hurt. He also cautioned the role of drug dealers who have been said to be targeting children: “I have seen children hurting themselves and ending up in hospital. But don’t take my word for it, just ask around and people

will tell you. They are sick of the area being neglected.

“Gradually over the years almost unnoticed our neighbourhoods have been taken over by groups of undesirable drug dealers who are engaged in their nefarious activities influencing and enticing innocent young people to become involved in selling and taking drugs.

“If you have recently visited Woodsome park you will see that it is in a shocking state. Glass is scattered all over the place and there is also household waste everywhere.”

Another resident pleaded with the council to take action: “Take a picture and circulate it so the council’s eyes open. The point I am making is run down areas are a haven for illegal activities.

“Young people are engaging in taking drugs and dealing which leads to an increase in crime. We just want the area to become clean and family friendly.

When approached for a comment, a Kirklees Council spokesperson said councillors have been working to find a solution to improve the look and feel of the area.

“Council officers have been looking at finding ways to deter crime by improving the local environment: clearing rubbish, improving visibility and making the area look and feel safe.

“Long term solutions are hard and they require determination. However, after a decade of austerity and cuts, we need to turn the corner and start investing in our infrastructure and our people.

“In the last 10 years we have lost £200m per year as a result of Government cuts. Batley needs to be a priority for regeneration. That is why our plan for economic recovery will mean improvements in our towns and villages beyond Huddersfield and Dewsbury. However, tackling inequality will be at the heart of recovery in Batley and for the whole of Kirklees.”



# Council meeting descends into chaos



**A** Batley man has accused Kirklees Council of failing to tackle institutional racism within the authority, which he described as “rife”.

Hasan Badat, of Woodsome Estate lambasted the authority and senior officials for failing to act on concerns that he raised in 2018 when he presented a deputation in regards to the council’s inclusion and diversity strategy.

He accused the council of presiding on a situation which is “ten times worse than what’s happening in Yorkshire County Cricket Club.”

Speaking to a packed meeting of full council in Huddersfield Town Hall last month, Mr Badat said he had asked for training for officers and elected member “to find out exactly what (institutional racism) means.”

“I’m convinced most of the people don’t,” said Mr Badat.

“I said that loudly at the last meeting. In terms of evidence, I have observed in my time I still don’t think that’s happened. I asked for lots of things to happen and I didn’t really have any comeback.

“What I have witnessed and observed markedly is a continuation of institutional racism. It’s been rife.”

“What are you doing about it? I can evidence this. To me, there seems to be nothing happening. And the community, especially the minority communities, are suffering.”

Mr Badat insisted the state of people’s mental health is at stake, claiming he had seen emails indicating “suicidal thoughts” from people of

colour being handled by the council and that urgent action was needed. He said: “The impact is it can cause people to think about taking their lives. It can cause suicide. Please, for goodness’ sake, start listening.”

However, the accusations were firmly rejected by the council leader, Shabir Pandor who said the council have overseen a vast amount of work around inclusion and diversity in recent years, and particularly since the international impact caused by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020,

He also said he would endeavour to showcase the steps the council have taken to increase diversity within the council in the new year.

He said: “I look forward to bringing the council’s inclusion and diversity strategy and annual report to the January’s council meeting where we can debate the issues and take another step towards making Kirklees a more inclusive place.

“We are under no illusions about the challenges of racism and inequality in our society. That’s why our programme for the borough is built around inclusion.

“We want to make sure that we deliver a recovery that leaves no one behind and that everyone can benefit from the borough’s success. We want

our services to be accessible and effective for everyone and we want Kirklees Council to be an exemplary employer that reflects our diversity.”

He also claimed Mr Badat was being “unreasonable” in focusing on one aspect of a broader issue: “We have to take responsibility as a council and as community representatives because there is a spiral of hatred that is developing not just here but nationally and internationally.

“We in Kirklees Council are hitting the issues head-on. We will not hide and we will not pass our responsibilities on to anybody else. But we have to temper what we say, not just as councillors but both as community representatives.”

Chair of the Warwick Road Residents Action Group, Aziz Daji, also took a deputation to the full council meeting regarding major concerns in the area including the poor state of roads and traffic congestion.

In a heated exchange, Mr Daji accused Councillor Pandor and cabinet member Naheed Mather of a lack of action, despite having sent a number of e-mails highlighting the problems.

This prompted the Mayor of Kirklees, Councillor Nigel Patrick to halt proceedings and call an end to the exchange between the two parties.

## **New health and social care survey to help tackle inequalities**

Residents across Kirklees have been encouraged to partake in a survey that will ensure suitable public health and social care services are provided to those who need them the most.

The 'Current Living in Kirklees' (CLiK) survey has been commissioned and developed in association with the Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the University of Huddersfield, Kirklees College and a number of additional stake holders to help understand health and social care, housing, employment and fundamentally, the quality of life amongst residents within Kirklees.

Those who take part in the survey have been assured that any data collected will be used to ensure the delivery of the most appropriate public services according to the needs of the Kirklees population. Data collected from the 2016 survey data helped to identify and tackle inequities and improve support. It is also envisaged that any data from the 2021 survey will help CLiK in understanding and putting into practice, how to benefit residents across the borough at a local level now that the war against the COVID-19 pandemic is being won.

The 2021 CLiK Survey is available to complete online: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/clik2021](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/clik2021)

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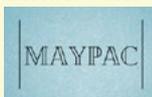
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# British government could strip individuals of citizenship



**T**he British government could be allowed to strip individuals of citizenship without giving them notice to appeal if legislation being debated in Parliament becomes law.

The Nationality and Border Bill would permit the home secretary, Priti Patel, to cancel some one's British citizenship without warning on national security grounds if it is not "reasonably practicable" to do.

The move comes months after Shamima Begum, the British-born "Jihadi Bride" who left the country as a teenager to join the Daesh, will not be allowed to return to the United Kingdom to fight a legal case about the revocation of citizenship.

"Deprivation of citizenship on conducive grounds is rightly reserved for those who pose

a threat to the UK or whose conduct involves very high harm," said the Home Office in a statement, adding that British citizenship is a "privilege" and not a right.

However, legal experts have lambasted the proposed bill for potentially creating situations where people lose their right to return home without being allowed to challenge the decision in court.

"It's not the kind of transparency in due process that you want," said Alexander Gillespie, an international law expert at New Zealand's University of Waikato. "You want these things to be dealt with so that the person has a chance to answer the charges against them."

While international law provides rights to citizenship, governments can retract it — usually after someone has

been convicted of or confessed to a serious offense such as terrorism — as long as the person has a second citizenship "to fall back onto."

Such punitive measures have been in the headlines in recent years, after several Western governments revoked the citizenship of people who had allegedly joined terrorist groups.

Some of these people had complex citizenship situations or multiple passports, leaving countries in disagreement over who should take responsibility. The British government argued in the Begum case that revoking her British citizenship would not render her stateless as she could obtain citizenship in Bangladesh, where she has family roots.

However, Begum said she had never visited Bangladesh, and the South Asian country announced that they would refuse her entry.

Frances Webber, vice-chair, Institute of Race Relations, said, "This amendment sends the message that certain citizens, despite being born and brought up in the UK and having no other home, remain migrants in this country. Their citizenship, and therefore all their rights, are precarious and contingent."

"It builds on previous measures to strip British-born dual nationals (who are mostly from ethnic minorities) of

citizenship and to do it while they are abroad, measures used mainly against British Muslims.

This summer, New Zealand reluctantly allowed 26-year-old Suhayra Aden to return to the country. Aden, who grew up in Australia and New Zealand, allegedly joined the Islamic State as a teenage bride and later had her Australian passport cancelled.

Canberra's decision sparked a diplomatic row with Wellington: "New Zealand has not taken this step lightly," New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said of Aden, who had been detained in Turkey.

"They are not Turkey's responsibility, and with Australia refusing to accept the family, that makes them ours."

Similarly, in 2019, the Trump administration barred Hoda Muthana, a New Jersey-born woman who left the country to marry an ISIS fighter, from returning to the United States.

The United States and Muthana were at odds as to whether she was ever a citizen, with the government arguing that her father was an accredited Yemeni diplomat when she was born.

Meanwhile, Muthana's lawyer released a document that stated her father was no longer a representative of the Yemeni government at the time of her birth.

# Muslims in Tripura and Assam terrorised by Hindu extremists

**M**uslims in the north eastern states of Tripura and Assam in India say they are living in fear after a number of Muslims were killed or severely beaten and a number of Masjids burnt down by extremist Hindu mobs.

Both Tripura and Assam are in close proximity to Bangladesh, where a photo of the Holy Quran was placed on a Hindu Idol during the Durga Puja festival, triggering violence across the country, killing six people including two Hindu men.

In evident retaliation to the lethal violence in Bangladesh, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council or VHP), and other extremist groups protested in Tripura and Assam and went onto target Muslims.

The VHP is affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological fountainhead of India's Hindu supremacist groups which seeks to convert India into an ethnic Hindu state.

Key members of of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, began their political careers as RSS workers.

Tripura, a remote state dominated by Bengali-speaking Hindus, is currently governed by Modi's BJP.

Muslims form about nine percent of its 3.7 million population.

Mufti Abdul Momin from the influential Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind organisation accused the BJP of encouraging attacks on Muslims.

"There are 16 mosques which have been targeted," said Mufti saheb. "We did not see many such outright attacks before in Tripura, but this anti-Muslim sentiment has been taking shape slowly ever since the BJP government came to power in 2018."

He said that the Muslim families targeted by this violence, who lost their shops and homes, or had their property damaged, have yet to receive any aid from the state government.

"They could provide monetary aid to the mosques that have been damaged. They are in control of the minority board and can allocate funds accordingly. They can help and cooperate in so many ways. But we have yet to hear a solution from the government," he said.

However, the Tripura government has denied damage to any mosques, saying photographs of such were fake.

Inspector Saurabh Tripathi said "the videos and photos that are depicted in those fake posts have no links with the actual incident that happened in Tripura."



Pujan Biswas, president of the recently formed Tripura Democratic Front, said that the "RSS attackers" who vandalised Masjids were not from the area. "They were not locals. They came from outside."

IMWS Chair, Rafik Dabhad called on the Indian Government to conduct an investigation and prosecute those found to have engaged

in such criminal activity. He said: "The Indian Muslim Welfare Society condemns the violence against Muslims in Assam and calls on the Indian Government and all political and religious leaders to stand together to unite all Indians.

"We call upon the authorities to carry out a fair and transparent investigation and take action against those responsible for the violence."

**“Anti-Muslim sentiment has been taking place since the BJP government came to power in 2018.”**

**Mufti Abdul Momin**

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# Kim Leadbeater MP column

November is, of course, Islamophobia Awareness Month and I was very pleased to be able to take part in an event at Westminster organised by my colleague Afzal Khan MP. Sadly, examples of Islamophobia are far too frequent and we have all been shocked by the revelations from Azeem Rafiq about the racist abuse he suffered in the world of cricket.

We must all stand up to racism wherever it rears its ugly head and I wish Lord Kamlesh Patel well in the huge task he has to clean up the reputation of Yorkshire Cricket. I know those involved with grassroots cricket in Batley and Spennings are keen to do all they can to support him in his work and I'd like to thank them for contacting me on this matter.

I've also had many messages about the evidence presented of anti-Muslim violence in Assam and Tripura in recent weeks. Some of the videos and other testimony I have seen have been very disturbing. I have written to the government minister, Lord Ahmed, to demand a thorough and impartial investigation into what has been happening and to call for an end to religious persecution wherever it occurs.

I share the deep concerns of constituents about the plight of the Palestinian people and the daily attacks on their human rights and dignity. I've had a number of meetings on the subject at Westminster.

I was pleased to have an opportunity to express these concerns in a passionate

debate in Parliament about the cause of Palestine and the road map to peace that we all hope to see. Sadly the media doesn't give as much attention to these important debates as they should, so I wanted to share with you some of my thoughts on the subject.

There has been a broad consensus in favour of a two-state solution, both here in the UK and internationally, for many years. There is the world of difference, however, between desiring an outcome and having a realistic roadmap to achieving it.

It also concerns me that, while we may agree on the long-term objective, there is too little discussion of what can be done here and now to support the Palestinians and the cause of peace.

Here in Batley and Spennings, the Palestinian flag is flown proudly by people for whom a viable, internationally recognised state of Palestine is a lifelong dream. I want that dream to be turned into reality, but I'm under no illusion about how distant it remains and how difficult the path to achieving it is.

And yet despite the extraordinary and persistent efforts of so many people, that dream of a viable and sovereign Palestine alongside a safe and secure Israel seems as far off as ever. Tragically, the dignity and human rights of the Palestinian people are trampled upon each and every day.

We know something in the UK about trying to resolve

long-standing disagreements over territory. Awful though they were, the suffering and human rights abuses endured by the minority population in Ulster cannot be compared to that of the Palestinians.

If we have learned anything from the long and delicate road to peace in Northern Ireland, however, it is that progress is impossible without first establishing a sufficient degree of trust for genuine dialogue to take place.

Long-standing and apparently irreconcilable differences can be unpicked, but only if the will to do so is there from all parties. There are clearly people of goodwill and good sense in both Israel and Palestine who recognise this, but the politicians have yet to show the necessary leadership.

I can completely understand why Palestinians insist that the way in which their territory has been seized and their rights denied for decades should never be forgotten. Peace in Palestine is the goal at the end of sadly a very long road, but what steps can be taken immediately to move in the right direction?

Quite apart from the justice in the Palestinian call for peace and security within their own internationally recognised state, what breaks my heart is the way ordinary Palestinian men, women and children are having their rights denied and their hopes of a better future crushed.

With no voice of their own they rely on human rights

defenders to speak up for them. Which is why one thing we can do – and which I have done – is to condemn unequivocally the Israeli government's attack on six leading civil society organisations.

By branding them as terrorists, Israel can close their offices, seize their assets and arrest and jail their members. It becomes unlawful to support them financially or even speak out in their support.

Israel cannot claim to defend democracy while at the same time depriving people of their fundamental democratic rights. And it is no good the British government just asking the Israelis to explain the basis for their decision. They should be saying loud and clear that oppressive measures of this kind only make a peaceful resolution of the region's conflicts more difficult to achieve.

I am clear that we cannot condemn another generation of Palestinians to a future filled with fear, insecurity and hopelessness. Please be assured that I for one will never give up on the path to peace in Palestine.

**P.S. I want to be as accessible to all my constituents as I can. My website address is [www.kim4batleyandspen.com](http://www.kim4batleyandspen.com) and that's where you can find more details on everything I've been doing locally, nationally and internationally, sign up to my newsletter and meet the team that I now have working with me – and working for you.**

# The need for a united Kirklees Muslim Forum

Last month leading members of the Muslim community met at Gulzar e Madina Masjid in Westtown, Dewsbury to discuss issues faced by Muslims across Kirklees.

Participants discussed issues around education, Islamophobia, burial facilities, and the need to improved working together to have an impact on wider policy issues facing the Muslim community.

Over 40 people attended the meeting representing Masjids in Batley and Dewsbury and community organisations.

The representatives began by discussing the absence of a unifying organisation to address the needs of community.

Those present articulated an urgent need to have a standing group to take a lead on behalf of the Muslim community and represent Muslims across Kirklees on common issues.

The discussions were very constructive and positive with members agreeing that the unifying group is essential for the benefit of the community for our future generations.

Issues in relation to burial services were also discussed. One representative told

Paigaam: “The Muslim Burial Council North Kirklees is made up of 18 plus member Masjids in North Kirklees and they should all be involved in making important decisions, not just few of these people who are running this organisation.

This organisation needs to be much more transparent and open to the public. They have



bought land worth around £280,000 but who authorised this expenditure? No meeting was called to agree such a large expenditure.

“We demand that this organisation is made to answer questions and be more accountable to the community. They should call an AGM as soon as possible so that all the concerns and issues can be fully discussed.”

The attendees felt the groups were not working together and

some participants indicated that the perception in the community was that they were competing with each other.

It was clear that burial issue is important, however the wider issue is a lack of unified Muslim voice across Kirklees and the importance of working together on common issues. During the meeting draft

was also discussed.

Members were also adamant that there is a need to promote a better image of Muslims to the wider communities and service providers along with the need to Improve communication and to better share understanding amongst Muslim communities.

Those present also agreed that a Steering Group would be formed with Brother Abdul Aslam from Ravensthorpe Community Centre appointed as interim chair.

The Steering group will take a lead in further developing the draft terms of reference and arranging future meetings inviting all the Masjids and Muslim organisation initially in North Kirklees. This would be expanded with invites to south Kirklees at a later stage.

A representative who was present at the meeting told Paigaam: “The meeting went very well with everyone wanting to start off as one united organisation of our Masjids and Community organisations to provide the group with good representation and wide range of experience and skills”.

**Got a story?**

**Contact Paigaam on  
01924 500 555**

**E: [Paigaam@imws.org.uk](mailto:Paigaam@imws.org.uk)**

# Why should we continue to suffer as second class citizens?



By Ismail Mulla

**T**he Yorkshire County Cricket Club racism scandal reads like a familiar story to anyone who comes from an ethnic minority background.

While the abhorrent treatment of Azeem Rafiq took place at one of the most decorated cricket clubs in the country, you won't have had to be involved with the sport to have experienced some of what he suffered.

The truth of the matter is we've needed to be thick skinned just to survive as people of colour in British society.

However, enough is enough. Why should we continue to suffer as second class citizens? That is what Rafiq's treatment was tantamount to.

What got me during his testimony in front of the select committee wasn't the outward racism. A lot of us are inured to outward racism from the knuckle draggers at this point.

It was the micro-aggressions and subtle discrimination that Rafiq suffered during his two

spells at Yorkshire. We've all been there. Differences in treatment at the workplace, in the classroom or even in social circles. Changes in attitude of certain people towards us.

The problem is it's really easy to gaslight people of colour. We have no way of telling why someone may be acting in a particular way towards us until it's too late.

Contrary to the keyboard warriors, we're not looking to play the 'race card' - whatever that is supposed to be.

In fact, we just want a fair opportunity. To be judged on our abilities rather than the colour of our skin.

Yet as we saw with Rafiq, his treatment was different to others and ultimately the naysayers questioned his ability to play cricket, his motives for coming forward with these allegations and ultimately his character. None of these should detract from the central issue of deep rooted racism.

As stories emerge from other counties, it is clear that English cricket has a problem

with institutional racism. The buck should stop with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). It won't. It never does.

The hypocrisy of the ECB was breathtaking. It bombarded us with a campaign for its new money spinning tournament - The Hundred - featuring young boys and girls from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

Through the summer, as the coffers filled up, it was aware of Yorkshire's delays to the report on racism. As the overarching body, it should have intervened much earlier.

Then at the select committee we got the usual rehearsed PR nonsense about engaging with diverse communities from the CEO of the ECB, Tom Harrison.

The truth of the matter is there needs to be a clear out in English cricket and it has to start at the top if there is to be any meaningful change.

One positive to emerge from this whole sorry saga is that there is finally an opportunity

to create somewhat of a level playing field.

If Lord Kamlesh Patel, the new chairman of Yorkshire CCC, can rid the club of this toxic culture, then it may have more than just a couple of talented Asian cricketers coming through their ranks.

The upsides are huge. There's a potential rise in attendances. Access to a talent pool that plays street smart cricket that can bring a vibrant approach to the game.

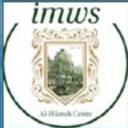
As for wider society, unless the nettle is grasped now, many other industries are also going to feel the sting of racism.

You only need to look at the accusations of Islamophobia levelled at the two major political parties.

Action needs to go beyond tokenism. Racism isn't just a problem in cricket but across society. There needs to be a major cultural shift.

**(Ismail Mulla is a business reporter at The Yorkshire Post)**

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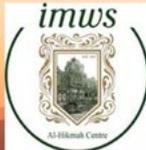
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## IMWS launch Gaza winter appeal

IMWS is pleased to officially launch its annual Gaza winter appeal. The aim of the appeal is to provide much needed aid to families in Gaza in the form of winter blankets, winter clothes and gas stoves and cylinders which will cost £16, £25 and £45 respectively.

Years of conflict has left around 80 per cent of the population dependent on international assistance, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Over 1.2 million have registered as refugees with UNHCR.

Now, the 1.8 million people in Gaza are facing the harshness of winter, with the thought of survival, not just for themselves, but for their children, racing through their worried minds.

IMWS works directly with the charity Palestine Welfare House which is based in Gaza to provide aid to those in need.

The appeal is open throughout the year and donations can be made directly at the Al-Hikmah Centre during normal working hours, and implement the changes needed in a timely manner.”

## IMWS Charity volunteer appeal

The best amongst you are those who bring greatest benefits to many others. The IMWS Charity Committee is always trying to carry out various projects all year-round, locally, nationally and internationally. We try our best to find and help fellow human beings in need wherever they are.

To carry out and sustain these important projects we always welcome volunteers: men and women young and old.

You can help us helping others by raising awareness, raising donations and volunteering. We are striving hard to establish a bank of volunteers who can help us raise much needed funds by partaking in sponsored events, rides or walks. Without volunteers, we are unfortunately limited to what sort of projects we would like to arrange. It is very well documented in Quran and ahadith how beneficial and rewarding it is if one is willing and able to help someone in need.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming anyone who can spare few hours of their precious time to come and meet us for an informal chat to discuss how best we can take this charity group forward. **Please contact us on: 01924 500555/ info@imws.org.uk to register your interest.**

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Faithful Forgive Generous Gentle Good

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What was the first thing the prophet (pbuh) did when he woke up?

What will be the first question, to be asked on the day of judgment?

In which hand will the pious people receive their book of deeds on the day of Qiyaamah?

When does the Islamic calendar begin?

What are the four sacred months in Islam?

Gregorian calendar months are "Solar months".  
What are Islamic calendar months?

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# Brain Teasers

Riddle 1: What three numbers, none of which is zero, give the same result whether they're added or multiplied?

Riddle 2: Mary has four daughters, and each of her daughters has a brother. How many children does Mary have?

Riddle 3: Which is heavier: a ton of bricks or a ton of feathers?

Riddle 4: Three doctors said that Bill was their brother. Bill says he has no brothers. How many brothers does Bill actually have?

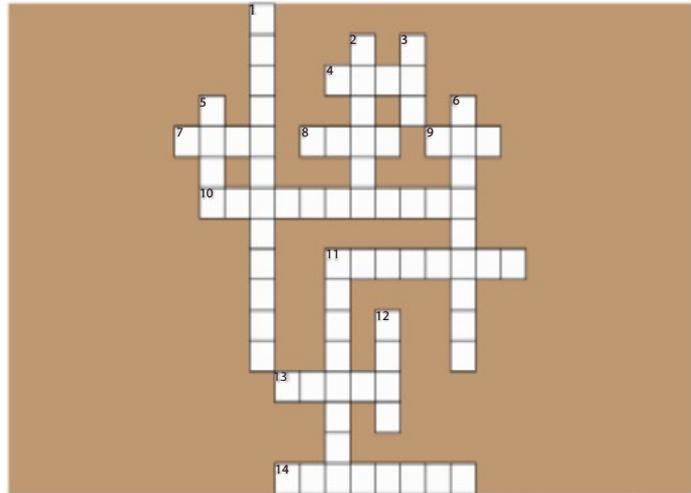
Riddle 5: Two fathers and two sons are in a car, yet there are only three people in the car. How?

Riddle 6: The day before yesterday I was 21, and next year I will be 24. When is my birthday?

Riddle 7: What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?

## Brain Teaser - Surah Kahf

Refer the given verse in the Quran and find out the answers



### Across

4. (18:50) Shaithan is a angel or jinn?
7. (18:58) What will they not be able to escape from? (4)
8. The Meaning of Kahf (4)
9. (18:18) What animal was at the entrance (3)
10. (18:83) Who's story is about to be narrated (4-7)
11. (18:50) The angels were asked to \_\_\_\_\_ (8)
13. (18:31) The colour of the garments in paradise (5)
14. (18:82) What was under the wall? (8)

### Down

1. (18:25) How many years were they in the cave (5-7)
2. (18:19) What coin was used (6)
3. (18:109) 'If the sea were \_\_\_\_\_' (3)
5. (18:45) What scatters the pieces of dry vegetation (4)
6. (18:47) What will be removed from the earth (9)
11. (18:57) What was Prophet Musa (asws) not having? (8)
12. (18:79) Who was seizing their ships (4)

## Answers

1. Answer: One, two and three
2. Answer: Five— each daughter has the same brother.
3. Answer: Neither— they both weigh a ton.
4. Answer: None. He
5. Answer: The father and son.
6. Answer: December 31; today is January 1.
7. Answer: A enve-lope



# Legal Column

**T**he following is an introduction to the Equality Act 2010 (EqA)

The Act identifies nine 'protected characteristics', or specific aspects of our humanity, which are important to an individual's dignity and autonomy: part of our equal worth as human beings.

The Act prohibits discrimination in relation to the protected characteristics of age, disability, being married or a civil partner, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

There are four main types of discrimination which apply to all the protected characteristics (except pregnancy and maternity, which are dealt with slightly differently).

## **DIRECT DISCRIMINATION.**

Under section 13, direct discrimination means less favourable treatment

because of a protected characteristic. It is useful to look at the way the alleged discriminator treats a person, compared with how he or she treats or would use a 'comparator', ie another individual in similar circumstances who does not have the relevant protected characteristic.

It is not necessary to point to an actual comparator. A hypothetical comparison can be made.

For example, an employer fails to promote an employee because she is a woman. If she had been a man with the same qualifications and experience, the employer would have promoted her.

Usually direct discrimination is because of the protected characteristic of the person subjected to the discrimination, but it can also include:

a- Discrimination because of someone else's protected characteristic, for eg. a landlord refuses to let a property to a young white man because

he attends a viewing with a friend wearing traditional Muslim dress.

b- Discrimination may be conscious or unconscious. The motive for the treatment is legally irrelevant (though it can have evidential value).

There cannot be a good, benevolent or commercially justifiable reason for directly discriminating. There is no justification defence available to direct discrimination, except in relation to direct age discrimination. However, there are a number of exceptions in the Act where direct discrimination is permitted.

**This next excerpt of this article will be published in the January issue of Paigam. The content of this article is provided for general information only. It is not intended to be relied upon as a comprehensive statement of law or to apply in every particular and individual set of circumstances. Please take independent legal advice.**

# Understanding our Anatomies

In November, in partnership with the IMWS WC, two workshops were held in order to understand the importance of women taking control of their bodies and understanding their autonomy.

Some attendees commented that they had lost people close to them from Breast Cancer (BC) and wished to understand what their loved ones experienced and how they could learn from their journeys.

Others attended as they felt they didn't understand what Breast Cancer was, how it could affect them and what they needed to look out for.

Julie and Sadie made us aware of some of the statistics such as the HRT medication may increase your risk of getting BC by 2%. Being overweight or obese, or regular consumption of alcohol can increase the risk of having BC by 8%! Therefore, the importance of looking after our general health and always seeking medical guidance was really emphasised upon us.

Something that also struck us, was that in Julie and Sadie's experience, the stigma and embarrassment of speaking about cancer in general, combined with checks that take place in such an intimate area caused many people to not speak up or attend examinations. This is something we want to work on as a community- to remove the stigma and let women know that their bodies are not something to be ashamed of.

Often, for Urdu or Gujarati speakers, or older women who have been isolated for much of their lives do not understand their own bodies. They have not previously had the education about their own autonomy or anatomy. Further to this, the term Cancer is scary and very much unknown.

This results in them not seeking assistance or help because of embarrassment for not knowing medical terms or simply being afraid of the unknown- this is a feeling we are all familiar with.

Another consequence of not understanding our bodies, is miscommunication with medical staff. There have been

cases where a person is unaware of the term 'breasts' and thus, when attempting to explain symptoms they refer to the 'chest'. This then results in the patient referrals to Chest Clinics, rather than Breast Clinics- this could lead to misdiagnoses, missed opportunities for treatment, the patient feelings as though they are not being taken seriously, the medical staff not understanding the patients' needs.

All in, not knowing the correct term, through no fault of their own can waste NHS time but also means people are not getting the help they need.

However, once we start speaking up and taking the steps to educate ourselves can we spread the awareness and help others to learn about their own bodies. We need to make sure that all of us are aware that we have power and control over our own bodies.

We have the free opportunities for mammograms and medical help under the NHS and can choose to attend appointments when we are invited; we can choose to contact a GP about any concerns we have and if we do not feel comfortable with a certain practitioner, we can ask to see another person. We are also able to take chaperones in such appointments (subject to Covid-19 guidelines at the moment).

We also have many ways of education ourselves on how our body works: sessions held locally, asking your GP and the internet. Sites that were recommended to us which explain the 12 signs of BC are: [www.knowyourlemons.com](http://www.knowyourlemons.com) [knowyourlemons.com](http://knowyourlemons.com) and [www.Coppafeel.org](http://www.Coppafeel.org).

One attendee H.A advised Julie that "the workshop really took the fear factor away from me. Especially with family history. I've been afraid to know more but after being educated ... I know I just need to get to know my body better."

Rozina rom Batley stated that she knew there wasn't much awareness in her family or community so she wished to understand the importance of what BC is, what the signs are and the steps to take to ensure any signs are caught early to avoid the worst-case scenarios.

She represented her family because they were reluctant to come and what she learnt at the session, she has taken home with her to discuss and explain to her parents, grandparents and the older generation who are at higher risk of breast cancer.

We hope that by organising these sessions our community feels more educated and empowered to spread awareness.

All it takes is one person to show a sign to someone else to help and save a life. We are all in this together. We all now someone who has been affected by Cancer, and whilst we can't stop all the suffering, we can help people who feel alone and scared.

If you are worried and scared for your own health, know that there is help – the first step can be speaking to someone you trust about the changes your body is going through. Speak to your GP about your health concerns or check out Julie and Sadie's team: [@PennineBSU](https://www.instagram.com/PennineBSU) (Instagram and twitter) or [Bth.penninehp@nhs.net](mailto:Bth.penninehp@nhs.net).

You can also check out the new charity Cancer SMART, please email [gemma@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk](mailto:gemma@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk) for more information.

IMWS would like to thank Julie and Sadie for attending and leading the workshops and providing us with a tour of the Breast Screening Mobile Unit.

And thank you for the sisters who attended and shared their stories and concerns with us. We appreciate all your efforts.

**If you have any further questions or want us to organise further workshops, please let us know at [@imwscommitteewomens](https://www.instagram.com/imwscommitteewomens) (Instagram) or twitter: [IMWS\\_Women](https://twitter.com/IMWS_Women). We would love to hear your thoughts!**

**To find out more about the IMWS Health Committee, please contact Mohammed Laher on: 07702962740**

# IMWS Muslim Burial Services



The IMWS Muslim Burial Services are continuing as normal. Our services are open to everyone, free of charge, regardless of whether they are members or not.

We are fully supported by our local area Masjids and our senior Ulema. We appreciate the support of our community and will strive to improve our services to meet the needs of our community.

We welcome all volunteers. If you would like to help please contact us directly.

## Burial contact numbers

Ebrahim Chopdat

07980 381197

Aziz Daji

07735 626 256

Munir Daji

07739 142 988

During office hours burial van keys can be collected from the main office. Out of hours can be collected from Ebrahim Chopdat.

Kirklees Council Burial fee is £2207  
Donations towards the running costs of the funeral van is most appreciated.



For more information please contact our office on:  
01924 500 555

Al-Hikmah Centre, Track Road, Batley, WF17 7AA.

[www.imws.org.uk](http://www.imws.org.uk) | [info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk)

# Al-Hikmah Centre

The Al-Hikmah Centre combines tradition with contemporary style.

Steeped in elegant luxury, this unique venue has a range of options.



- Indoor Football
- Weddings
- Conferences & exhibitions
- Meeting rooms
- Courses & workshops
- Community events.



IMWS Al-Hikmah Centre  
28 Track Road, Batley, WF17 7AA

Tel: 01924 500 555  
E: [info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk)

## ચાલો આજે કંઈક સાઈં જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ સભાસ

### સંબંધોને બેડી રાખનાર એક પાસબૂક !

દીકરીની શાદીનો દિવસ હતો. વિદાય પહેલાં મા દીકરી પાસે પહોંચી અને તેના હાથમાં એક બેન્કની પાસબૂક મૂકી દીધી. ચોકીને દીકરીએ પૂછ્યું, મા આ શું છે? મા બોલી બેટી! મારા તરફથી તારા માટે એક વેડીંગ ગીફ્ટ છે. આ એક બેન્કની પાસબૂક છે. જીવનના ખુબસુરત પ્રસંગોને સંગ્રહી રાખવાની પાસબૂક. આજે તારી શાદી થઈ મેં બેંકમાં ૫૦૦ પાઉન્ડ જમા કરાવ્યા છે અને પાસબૂકમાં તેની એન્ટ્રી પણ કરાવી દીધી છે. આજે મારી દીકરીનો શાદીનો દિવસ છે. ખુશીનો દિવસ છે. તુ તારા પતિ સાથે એક નવી જિંદગી શરૂ કરવા જઈ રહી છે. જ્યારે પણ તમારા બન્નેની જિંદગીમાં કોઈ ખુશીનો મોકો આવે તો બેન્કમાં કોઈક રકમ જમા કરાવી પાસબૂકમાં એ જરૂરથી લખજે કે, કયી ખુશીના કારણે તમે પૈસા જમા કરાવ્યા. ખુશી જેટલી મોટી હોય પૈસા તેટલા વધારે જમા કરાવજો. જીવનમાં કોઈ પળે જ્યારે પણ તમે બન્ને આ પાસબૂકને જોશો તો એ ખુશીની પળોથી ફરી જીવી ઉઠશો.

દીકરીને માની આ ભેટ ખૂબજ સુંદર લાગી. સાસરે ગયા પછી દીકરીએ તેના પતિને એ પાસબૂક બતાવી અને માની વાતો પણ કરી. પતિ પણ ખૂબજ ખુશ થયો. તેણે વિચાર્યું કે, જિંદગીની સારી પળોને સંભાળીને રાખવાનો આ તરીકો અજીબ જરૂર છે પરંતુ તે ખૂબજ સારો છે. તે દિવસથી બન્ને ખુશીના મોકોના ઈન્તેજારમાં રહેતા હતા. જેથી તેઓ કંઈક પૈસા બેન્કમાં જમા કરી શકે. દરેક નાના મોટા ખુશીના મોકા ઉપર તેમણે બેન્કમાં પૈસા જમા કરાવ્યા અને પાસબૂકમાં એન્ટ્રી પણ કરાવી.

આજે પહેલી વખત અમે ડીનર ઉપર ગયા. એ ખુશીમાં અમે બેન્કમાં ૨૫ પાઉન્ડ જમા કરાવ્યા. આજે મારી નોકરીનું પ્રમોશન થયું. આજે સાથે મળી શોપિંગ કર્યું. આજે મારો જન્મ દિવસ ઉજવ્યો. આજે શાદીની સાલગીરા મનાવી. આજે અમારા ત્યાં પહેલા સંતાનનો જન્મ થયો. આ રીતે કેટલીક એન્ટ્રીઓ પાસબૂકમાં થતી રહી. અને દરેક મોકા ઉપર બેન્કમાં જમા પૈસા વધતા ગયા. પરંતુ જેમ જેમ સમય વીતતો ગયો. પતિ-પત્નીમાં દૂરી વધવા લાગી. નાની નાની વાતોમાં બહસ થવા લાગી અને તે ઝઘડામાં બદલી. કેટલાયે દિવસો સુધી તેમના વચ્ચે બોલચાલ બંધ રહેલી. સ્થિતિ અહીં સુધી પહોંચી કે, તેઓ એકબીજાથી અલગ થવાનો વિચાર કરવા લાગ્યા.

અંતમાં એ દિવસ પણ આવી ગયો કે બન્નેએ ફેંસલો લીધો કે હવે તેઓ તલાક લઈ લે. તલાક લેવા પહેલાં પત્ની તેની માના ઘરે આવી. પોતાના દુઃખડા બતાવી કહેવા લાગી, મા હવે હું એના સાથે ન રહી શકું. હું તલાક લઈ રહી છું. મા એ કહ્યું જો તારો એજ નિર્ણય છે તો હું તને ન રોકીશ. પરંતુ તને પેલી પાસબૂક યાદ છે ને? જે મેં તને વિદાય વેળા આપી હતી. તલાક લેવા પહેલા એ બેન્ક એકાઉન્ટને બંધ કરી દો અને તેમાં જમા પૈસા ખર્ચી નાંખો. અગર એ શાદી એટલી ખરાબ હતી તો એનાથી

જોડાયેલ વાતો પણ તારે યાદ રાખવી ન જોઈએ. પૈસા ખર્ચીને પાસબૂકને સળગાવી દે. દીકરીએ કહ્યું જી મા તમે સાચું કહી રહ્યા છો. બીજે દિવસે તે બેંક એકાઉન્ટ બંધ કરાવવા પહોંચી અને લાઈનમાં ઊભી રહી. લાઈનમાં ઊભા રહેતા તે પાસબૂકના પાના ફેરવવા લાગી. વાંચતા વાંચતા તેની આંખો ભરાઈ આવી. ખુશીના દરેક પ્રસંગો તેની સામે ફરવા લાગ્યા. જે તેણે પતિના સાથે વીતાવ્યા હતા. તે લાઈનથી બહાર નીકળી ઘરે આવી ગઈ. ઘરે આવી તેના પતિને કહ્યું તલાક લેવા પહેલાં આ બેન્ક એકાઉન્ટને બંધ કરી દેવું જોઈએ. હું તે ન કરી શકી. તમો કાલે બેંક જઈને એકાઉન્ટ બંધ કરી બધા પૈસા ખર્ચ કરી દેજો.

બીજે દિવસે પતિ બેન્કમાં ગયો. લાઈનમાં ઊભા રહી તે પણ પાસબૂકના પાનાઓ ફેરવવા લાગ્યો. બધા પ્રસંગોને યાદ કરી તેની આંખો ભરાઈ આવી. આંખોમાં આંસુ આવી ગયા. તે પણ બેન્કથી ઘરે આવી ગયો અને પાસબૂક પત્નીના હાથમાં મૂકી દીધી. પત્નીએ જોયું કે, આજની તારીખે બેન્કમાં ૧૦૦ પાઉન્ડ જમા થઈ ગયા છે અને પાસબૂકમાં લખ્યું હતું કે, જેને હું છોડવા જઈ રહ્યો છું તેને જિંદગીમાં હું સૌથી વધારે ધ્યાન કરું છું. અને બાકીની જિંદગી પણ એના સાથે જ વીતાવવા માંગુ છું. બન્નેની આંખો ભરાઈ આવી. એકબીજાને ગળે લાગી બન્ને ખૂબજ રડવા લાગ્યા. બન્નેએ નક્કી કર્યું કે, નાની વાતો ઉપર હવે ફરી કોઈ દિવસ ઝઘડીશું નહીં.

દોસ્તો! શાદીનો રિશ્તો (સંબંધ) જેટલો ખૂબસુરત છે તેટલોજ જટીલ પણ છે. એને નિભાવવો આસાન નથી. આ રિશ્તામાં અલગાવ હોવું સ્વાભાવિક છે. કારણ કે, આ રિશ્તામાં બે ભિન્ન પરિવારના સભ્યોનું મિલન છે. પરંતુ એકબીજાની ભિન્નતાને સમજીને પરિવાર વસાવવું એજ તો શાદી છે.

અગર રિશ્તામાં કોઈ દરાર આવે તો તેની ભૂલી જઈ તે પ્રસંગોને યાદ કરો જે તમે તમારા જીવનસાથી સાથે ધ્યાન અને ખુશીથી વીતાવ્યા છે. તે પ્રસંગો તમારામાં છૂપાયેલ ભાવનાઓને ફરીથી જીવિત કરી દેશે.

### ગઝલ

ઈતને બેતાબ, ઈતને બેકરાર ક્યું હૈ  
લોગ જરૂરતસે જ્યાદા હોશિયાર ક્યું હૈ  
મુંહપે તો સભી દોસ્ત હૈ લેકિન  
પીઠ પીછે દુશ્મન હજાર ક્યું હૈ  
હર ચહેરે પર એક મુખૌટા હૈ યારો  
લોગ ઝહરમેં ડૂબે, કિરદાર ક્યું હૈ  
સબ કાટ રહે હૈ, યહાં ઈક દૂજે કો  
લોગ સભી દો ધારી, તલવાર ક્યું હૈ  
સબકો સબકી, હર ખબર ચાહિયે  
લોગ ચલતે ફીરતે, અખબાર ક્યું હૈ

## મદ્રેસા ઈસ્લામિયાહનો વાર્ષિક જલ્સો

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

મદ્રેસા ઈસ્લામિયાહ, માઉન્ટ પ્લેઝન્ટ બાટલીનો ૨૯ મો તાલિમી ને હિફ્ઝ કુરઆન કરીમના ખતમનો વાર્ષિક જલ્સો પહેલી ૨બીઉલ આખીર ૧૪૪૩ હિજરી તારીખ ૬ નવેમ્બર ૨૦૨૧ના શનિવારે મગરિબની નમાઝ બાદ ઝમઝમ પબ્લીકેશન, લંડનના ડાયરેક્ટર હઝરત મૌલાના મુફ્તી અબ્દુરરહમાન મંગેરા સાહેબની સદારત હેઠળ મદીના મસ્જિદમાં વિશાળ મેદની વચ્ચે યોજાયો હતો. જેમાં મદ્રેસાના બે તાલિમે ઈલ્મએ કુરઆન મજ્હદની શાનદાર તીલાવત અને એક નાત-નઝમ પેશ કરી હતી. મદ્રેસાનો ટૂંકો રિપોર્ટ રજૂ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો અને આભારવિધિ કરવામાં આવી હતી.

### ૭ પુશનસીબ તાલિમે ઈલ્મ :

જલ્સામાં આ વર્ષે હાફિઝ થનારા ૭ સઆદતમંદ તાલિમે ઈલ્મએ પોતાનો આખરી સબક પુશ ઈલ્હાન તજવીદની સાથે સંભળાવી કુરઆન મજ્હદ ખતમ કર્યો હતો. એમની દસ્તારબંદી કરીને સનદ અને ઈન્આમ અર્પણ કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. હાફિઝ થનારા બાળકો નીચે મુજબ હતા.

૧ હાફિઝ ઈબ્રાહીમ અ.અઝીઝ આકુડી ૨. હાફિઝ મહંમદ રિયાઝ લહેર ૩. હાફિઝ મહંમદ હાફિઝ અખ્તર પટેલ ૪. હાફિઝ મહંમદ કાશીફ કીસ્મતદાર ૫. હાફિઝ ઈસ્માઈલ સુહેલ મહમુદ ૬. હાફિઝ મહંમદ ઈસ્માઈલ લુણત ૭. હાફિઝ મહંમદ મૌલાના અસ્લમ સીદાત. પયગામ એ દરેક હાફિઝ થનારા બાળકોને, તેમના મા-બપ, વાલીઓ અને ઉસ્તાદોને ખૂબ ખૂબ મુબારકબાદી પાઠવે છે અને તેમની કામયાબી માટે દુઆ કરે છે.

શનિવાર તારીખ ૧૩મી માર્ચ ૨૦૨૧ના નવા મદ્રેસાના પ્રેયર રૂમમાં એક નાની મજલીસ થઈ હતી. ૨૦૨૦ના વર્ષમાં ૧૦ પુશનસીબ તાલિમે ઈલ્મ જે હાફિઝ થયા હતા તેઓએ પણ પોતાનો અંતિમ સબક તજવીદની સાથે પુશ ઈલ્હાન પોતાના વાલીઓ અને ઉસ્તાદોના સામે સંભળાવ્યો હતો અને કુરઆન મજ્હદ ખતમ કર્યો હતો. તે સમયે એઓને સનદ અને ઈન્આમ આપી દીધા હતા. આજના જલ્સામાં એ ૧૦ હાફિઝોને ખાસ આમંત્રણ આપી બાકીનું ઈન્આમ કુરઆન મજ્હદ તર્જુમાવાળો આપવામાં આવ્યો હતો.

૨૦૨૦ના વર્ષમાં હાફિઝ થનારા બાળકોના નામ આ પ્રમાણે હતા.

૧. હાફિઝ યુસુફ અયાઝ સીદાત ૨. હાફિઝ અલકમહ મૌલાના સીદીક શેખ ૩. હાફિઝ ઉમર આસિફ બાસર ૪. હાફિઝ મહંમદ ઈબ્રાહીમ પટેલ ૫. હાફિઝ યુસુફ સુહેલ મહમુદ ૬. હાફિઝ અબુબકર હાફિઝ સાલેહ લુણત ૭. હાફિઝ મહંમદ મુસા રાવત ૮. હાફિઝ ઈસ્માઈલ મહંમદઅલી ફૂલત ૯. હાફિઝ રચ્યાન ઈબ્રાહીમ પટેલ ૧૦. હાફિઝ ઈસ્માઈલ ઐચુબ રાવત અને ૨ પુશનસીબ છોકરીઓએ પણ કુરઆન કરીમ મુક્કમલ કરી હાફિઝાહ બની હતી તેમને પણ ઈન્આમ અને સનદ અર્પણ કરવામાં આવી હતી.

### છોકરીઓનો જલ્સો :

એજ દિવસે સવારે મદ્રેસાની નવી બિલ્ડીંગમાં મદ્રેસાની છોકરીઓનો ૨૪મો વાર્ષિક જલ્સો ઓરતોની મોટી સંખ્યામાં ઉત્સાહજનક વાતાવરણમાં થયો હતો. મદ્રેસાની હોનહાર તેજસ્વી છોકરીઓએ દિલચસ્પ અને શાનદાર કુરઆન મજ્હદની તીલાવત, નાત-નઝમ, મુકાલિમહ અંગ્રેજીમાં રજૂ કર્યા હતા.

૬ નવેમ્બર ૨૦૨૧ શનિવારના બન્ને જલ્સામાં હાફિઝ થનારા બાળકોના વાલિઓ તરફથી ખાવાની સુંદર વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવી હતી.

### લોકડાઉનમાં ઓનલાઈન તાલિમ :

૨૦૨૦માં કોવિડ-૧૯ મહામારીના લીધે મદ્રેસો લગભગ ૭ મહિના બંધ રહ્યો હતો. જ્યારે મદ્રેસો બિલ્કુલ બંધ રહ્યો ત્યારે મદ્રેસાની તાલિમ બાળકોને ઓનલાઈનથી આપવામાં આવી હતી અને તે માટે સમગ્ર પ્રોગ્રામનું આયોજન કમિટીના સભ્યો, ઉસ્તાદો તરફથી કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

જેમાં પ્રથમ લોકડાઉન સોમવાર ૨૩ માર્ચ ૨૦૨૦થી શરૂ થતાં મદ્રેસો બંધ થયો હતો ત્યારથી ૧લી સપ્ટેમ્બર ૨૦૨૦ સુધી ઓનલાઈન તાલિમ આપવામાં આવી હતી. ૨ સપ્ટેમ્બર ૨૦૨૦ થી લોકડાઉન ઉઠી જતાં મદ્રેસો ફરી ખુલી ગયો હતો.

સોમવાર ૮મી નવેમ્બર ૨૦૨૦થી બીજીવાર લોકડાઉન શરૂ થતાં મદ્રેસાની તાલિમ ફરી ઓનલાઈન શરૂ થઈ હતી. અને પછી સોમવાર ૭ ડીસેમ્બર ૨૦૨૦ થી મદ્રેસો ફરી ખુલી ગયો હતો. સોમવાર ૪ જાન્યુઆરી ૨૦૨૧ થી ત્રીજી વાર લોકડાઉન શરૂ થતાં ૫ જાન્યુઆરી ૨૦૨૧ થી મદ્રેસાની તાલિમ ઓનલાઈન શરૂ થઈ હતી જે ૧૭મી મે ૨૦૨૧ ના ફરી મદ્રેસો ખુલી ગયો હતો. અને ત્યારપછીથી રેગ્યુલર મદ્રેસો રાબેતા મુજબ ચાલી રહ્યો છે. આ પ્રમાણે ત્રણ લોકડાઉનમાં લગભગ ૭ મહિના સુધી મદ્રેસાની તાલિમ ઓનલાઈનથી થઈ હતી જેના કારણે બાળકોની દીની તાલિમમાં કોઈ વધુ અવરોધ આવ્યો ન હતો.

લોકડાઉનમાં ઓનલાઈન તાલિમની શરૂઆત થતાં બાટલીના અને બીજા શહેરોના મદ્રેસાઓ માટે આ એક ચેલેન્જીંગ કામ હતું. દરેક સેટઅપ કરવું તાલિમે ઈલ્મ અને તેમના વાલીઓને દરેક માહિતીઓ આપવી અને ખાસ કરીને ઉસ્તાદોએ સબક માટે પૂર્વ તૈયારી કરી સમય મુજબ દરેક બાળકોને સબક આપવું, સાંભળવું એ એક કઠિન કામ હતું. આવો પ્રયોગ પહેલા કોઈ પ્રકારે કરવામાં આવ્યો ન હતો. વળી દરેક વ્યક્તિ જેઓ આ ઓનલાઈન સીસ્ટમ સાથે સંકળાયેલા હતા તેમને પણ જરૂરી માર્ગદર્શન, ટ્રેનીંગ અને સાધનોની સગવડતા વગેરે ઉપર પણ પૂરૂ ધ્યાન આપવાનું હતું. પરંતુ મુસબ્બીબુલ અસ્બાબની મદદથી દરેક કામ આસાન થયું હતું અને તાલિમે ઈલ્મોના સબક વગેરે ઉપર કોઈ મોટી અસર થઈ ન હતી. આ માટે કમિટી સભ્યો, સદર મુદર્રીસ, ઉસ્તાદો અને બાળકો તથા બાળકોના વાલીઓનો જેટલો પણ આભાર માનીએ ઓછો છે. આ દરેકની ખીદમતોને પરવરદિગાર કબુલ ફરમાવે આમીન.

## વિચાર વિનિમય

-અહમદ ગુલ

### એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ :

લગભગ તમામ ખાધ પદાર્થોને વેચાણમાં મૂકવા પહેલાં, અગર તે બોક્ષમાં હોય કે બોટલમાં તેના પર એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ, સરકારના કાયદા મુજબ ફરજિયાત લખવાની હોય છે. કોઈ પદાર્થની ડેટ દસ-પંદર દિવસ સુધીની હોય છે. જેમ કે, દૂધ, બ્રેડ વગેરે. જ્યારે કેટલીક વસ્તુઓ જેમ કે, દવા વગેરેની ડેટ બે-ત્રણ વર્ષ સુધીની પણ હોય છે.

એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ દર્શાવવા પાછળ મુખ્ય હેતુ તો ખરીદનારને એ જાણ કરવાની કે, ચેતવણી આપવાની હોય છે કે, તમારે એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ પહેલાં જે તે વસ્તુઓને વાપરી લેવાનું ફાયદાકારક હોય છે. અને જો ડેટ એક્ષપાયર થઈ જાય છતાં કોઈ વાપરે તો વાપરનારના સ્વાસ્થ્ય માટે હાનિકારક થઈ શકે. કેટલાક સંજોગોમાં તો એ મોતનું પણ કારણ બની શકે. એટલે જ ખાવા-પીવાની વસ્તુઓ ખરીદતાં પહેલાં આપણે એક્ષપાયરી ડેટની ખાત્રી કર્યા પછી ખરીદીએ અને વાપરીએ છીએ.

આ વાત તો માનવસર્જિત ઉત્પાદનની થઈ. એજ પ્રમાણે આપણને ઘરતી પર મોકલતી વેળા આપણી પણ એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ સર્જનહારે નક્કી કરેલી હોય છે. માનવસર્જિત પદાર્થની ડેટ આપણે જાણી શકીએ, જોઈ શકીએ. જ્યારે આપણાં જીવનની એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ સર્જનહારે પોતાના પાસે રાખેલી હોય છે. આપણે તેનાથી બિલ્કુલ અજાણ હોય છે.

માનવીની એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ સાથે બીજી ઘણી વિગતો પણ નક્કી કરેલી હોય છે. જેમ કે ઘરતી પર આવનાર પ્રત્યેક માનવીનું આયુષ્ય એના જન્મકાળથી જ નક્કી થયેલું હોય છે. ક્યા રોગ કે અકસ્માતથી એના જીવનનો અંત થનાર છે. આપણે હંમેશાં જોતાં આવ્યા છીએ કે, કોઈનું મૃત્યુ રેલમાં તણાઈ જવાના કારણે અથવા કોઈ ઘરતીકંપ કે આગમાં સળગી જવાથી યા તો કોઈ ભયંકર બીમારીના કારણે થયું. એ તો માત્ર મૃત્યુના બહાના રૂપેજ હોય છે. ખરી રીતે તો મરનારના મૃત્યુનું વર્ષ, મહિનો, દિવસ કે કોઈ ઘડી પ્રથમથી જ નક્કી થયેલ હોય છે.

હું જ્યારે પણ કોઈ ખાધ પદાર્થની એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ નિહાળું છું ત્યારે વિચારું છું કે, મારી પણ કોઈ એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ નિશ્ચિત જ છે. સર્જનહારે મને તેનાથી અજાણ રાખ્યો છે. ખરેખર આ અજાણતાપણું માનવજીવન માટે આશીર્વાદરૂપ હોય છે. બેઘડી વિચારી જુઓ પ્રત્યેક પેદા થનારના શરીર પર એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ લખાઈને આવી હોત તો એની દુનિયા કેવી બની જાત. એનો એક પણ દિવસ ચેનથી ન ગુજર્યો હોત. અતિકૃપાળુ સર્જનહારની એ હિકમત માનવીની સમજબહાર છે. તેથી જ બેસમજ લોકો અહીં કાયમ રહેવાના હોય એ રીતે જીવન જીવતા હોય છે. પણ સમજદાર હંમેશાં એની એક્ષપાયરી ડેટ ને નજર સમક્ષ રાખી પોતાના જીવનનું ઘડતર કરે છે. હવે આપણે વિચારવાનું હોય છે

કે, આપણે આપણે સમજદારીપૂર્વકનું કે બેસમજનું જીવન જીવી રહ્યા છીએ.

આ તકે, ૧૯૯૫માં લખેલ એક મારી કવિતા યાદ આવે છે.

લોક પૂછે મને

મારું સરનામું

શું બતાવું એમને ?

છે બધાં એ હંગામી

સરનામા, પણ

જ્યાં ઢળશે, આ શરીર

જ્યાં મળશે, મને બે ગજ જમીન

ત્યાં હશે, અનંતકાળ સુધી

રહેઠાણ મારું

(ખરેખર તો એ પણ હંગામી જ બની જનાર છે.)

### ફરી એક વાર અજીમ પ્રેમજી ચેરિટી આપવામાં નંબર-૧

ભારત દેશનું દુર્ભાગ્ય જુઓ દેશમાં જાતિ ધર્મના નામ ઉપર એક દિવાલ ઊભી કરી દેવામાં આવી છે. ખાસ સમુદાયને નિશાના ઉપર લેવામાં આવે છે. ભારતીય જનતા પાર્ટીના તમામ નેતાઓ મુસ્લિમો વિરોધી ઝેર ઓકી રહ્યા છે અને મુસલમાનોને પાકિસ્તાન ચાલી જવાની ધમકીઓ આપે છે. તેમને રાષ્ટ્રવિરોધી હોવાની બદનામી આપે છે. તેમના અંધભક્તો આવા નેતાઓ પાછળ નીકળી પડી સડકથી લઈને સોશયલ મિડીયા સુધી મુસલમાનો વિરુદ્ધ બયાનો આપી પરેશાન કરે છે.

આ બધાની વચ્ચે અજીમ પ્રેમજી એક રોલ મોડલ છે. જે લોકો ભૂલી જાય છે. તેમણે એક ઉત્તમ ઉદાહરણ પૂરૂ પાડ્યું છે અને નફરત ફેલાવનારા આવા લોકોના ગાલ ઉપર તમાચો માર્યો છે. અજીમ પ્રેમજી વિપ્રો કંપનીના સ્થાપક છે અને કામચાબ મુસ્લિમ ઉદ્યોગપતિ છે. જેમનું ભારતના અર્થતંત્રમાં મોટું યોગદાન છે. ઉદ્યોગપતિ હોવું મોટી વાત નથી, પૈસા કમાવાજ એ પણ મોટી વાત નથી. પરંતુ ઈન્સાન હોવું અને ઈન્સાનિયત હોવી ખાસ જરૂરી છે. ઈન્સાનિયતની જીવતી જાગતી કોઈ સ્તસ્વીર હોય તો તે અજીમ પ્રેમજી છે.

એક ખાસ ઓર્ગેનાઈજેશન ક્યા ઉદ્યોગપતિઓ, કોર્પોરેટરો કેટલું દાન આપે છે તેનો રિપોર્ટ દર વર્ષે બહાર પાડે છે. ૨૦૨૦-૨૧ના બહાર પડેલ રિપોર્ટ મુજબ અજીમ પ્રેમજી ચાલુ વર્ષે દાન આપવામાં નંબર-૧ છે. ગયા વર્ષે પણ તેઓ નંબર-૧ ઉપર હતા. તેમણે ૯૭૧૩ કરોડ રૂપિયાનું દાન આપ્યું છે. એટલે કે પ્રતિદીન તેમણે ૨૭ કરોડ દાનમાં આપ્યા છે. ઉપરાંત કોરોનાના સંકટ સમય દરમિયાન તેમણે ૧૧૨૫ કરોડ રૂપિયા ખર્ચ કર્યા હતા. આ લિસ્ટમાં બીજા ઉદ્યોગપતિઓ પણ છે જેમને કરોડપતિ બનાવવામાં સરકારનો મોટો હાથ છે, તેવા મુકેશ અંબાણીએ ફક્ત ૫૭૭ કરોડ, કુમાર મંગલમ બિરલાએ ૩૭૭ કરોડ અને ગૌતમ અદાણીએ સૌથી ઓછા ૧૩૦ કરોડ રૂપિયા દાનમાં આપ્યા છે. ૨૦૨૦માં અજીમ પ્રેમજીએ ૭૯૦૪ કરોડ રૂપિયાનું દાન કર્યું હતું. અજીમ પ્રેમજી વિપ્રોના ૩૪ ટકા હિસ્સો એટલે કે, ૫૨ હજાર ૭૫૦ કરોડનું દાન કરી ચૂક્યા છે.

## દિલ્હી વિશ્વમાં સૌથી વધુ પ્રદુષિત શહેર

ગયા માસમાં સ્કોટલેન્ડ ખાતે જી-૨૬ સમીટ મળી હતી. જેમાં વિશ્વના અનેક દેશોએ ગ્લોબલ વોર્મિંગ અને પ્રદુષણ રોકવા ઉપર અને તે માટે જરૂરી પગલા ભરવા ઉપર ચર્ચા વિચારણા કરી હતી. નિષ્ણાંતોએ પ્રદુષણ અંગે અનેક બાબતોનું વિશ્લેષણ કર્યું હતું. આ કોન્ફરન્સમાં વિશ્વમાં તાપમાન નીચું આવે તે માટેના જરૂરી પગલાં લેવા ઉપર સહમતી સંઘાય હતી.

છેલ્લા કેટલાક વર્ષોથી ભારત સહિત વિશ્વના અનેક દેશોમાં પ્રદુષણ એક મોટો ખતરો બની રહ્યો છે. દુનિયાભરમાં હવાની ગુણવત્તા અને એર ક્વોલીટી ઈન્ડેક્સ ઉપર નજર રાખતી સંસ્થા આઈક્યુ એર, દર વર્ષે સૌથી વધુ પ્રદુષિત શહેરોનું લિસ્ટ બહાર પાડે છે. ચાલુ સાલે પબ્લીશ થયેલ તેમના રિપોર્ટમાં દુનિયામાં સૌથી વધુ પ્રદુષિત શહેરોની લિસ્ટમાં દિલ્હી શહેર પહેલા નંબર ઉપર છે. જ્યારે પાકિસ્તાનનું લાહોર શહેર બીજા નંબર પર છે. બલ્ગેરિયાનું સોફિયા શહેર ત્રીજા અને ભારતનું કલકત્તા શહેર ચોથા નંબર ઉપર છે. છેલ્લા કેટલાક વર્ષોથી દિલ્હીની આબોહવામાં ખાસ કરીને શિયાળામાં ભયંકર પ્રદુષણ અને ધુમ્મસનું વાતાવરણ સર્જાય છે. લોકો આવા વાતાવરણથી ત્રાસી જાય છે પરંતુ સરકાર કોઈ પગલાં લેવામાં સફળ થતી નથી.

આ ઉપરાંત લાંચ વિરૂદ્ધ માપદંડ સ્થાપિત કરનાર ટ્રેસ નામનું સંગઠન પ્રતિવર્ષ વિશ્વના દેશોની લાંચ બાબતે યાદી બહાર પાડે છે. જેમાં ભારત ગયા વર્ષે ૨૦૨૦માં ૭૭મા ક્રમે હતું જે હવે વધીને ૨૦૨૧માં ૮૨માં ક્રમે પહોંચ્યું છે. જ્યારે ડેન્માર્ક, ન્યુઝીલેન્ડ, સ્વીડન, ફીનલેન્ડમાં સૌથી ઓછું લાંચનું પ્રમાણ જોવા મળે છે.

## કોરોનાની વેક્સીન બનાવનાર કંપનીઓએ પ્રતિ સેકન્ડ ૧૦૦૦ ડોલરનો નફો મેળવ્યો

આખી દુનિયા છેલ્લા બે વર્ષથી કોરોના મહામારીનો સામનો કરી રહી છે અને પરિણામે અનેક દેશોના અર્થતંત્ર ઉપર તેની ખૂબજ ખરાબ અસર થઈ રહી છે. એવા સમયે કોરોનાની રસી શોધનાર ત્રણ ફાર્મા કંપનીઓ, ફાયઝર, બાયોએનટેક અને મોડર્નાએ તેમની રસી મારફત પ્રત્યેક સેકન્ડે ૧૦૦૦ ડોલરનો નફો કર્યો છે. જ્યારે આજે પણ વિશ્વના એવા કેટલાયે ગરીબ દેશો છે, જેઓ કોરોનાની રસી મેળવવાથી વંચિત રહ્યા છે. પરિણામે લાખો લોકોએ મોતનો સામનો કરવો પડ્યો છે. આ ત્રણે કંપનીઓએ તેમની રસી મોટે ભાગે અમીર દેશોને વેચી છે. જેને પરિણામે તેમણે વાર્ષિક ૩૪ અબજ ડોલરનો નફો કર્યો છે. જે પ્રતિદિન ૯૩૫ કરોડ અથવા પ્રતિ સેકન્ડે ૧૦૦૦ ડોલર છે. દુનિયામાં કોરોનાના કુલ કેસો લગભગ ૨૫૫ કરોડથી વધુ છે. જેમાં મૃત્યુનો આંક પર લાખથી વધુ છે. વિશ્વમાં કોરોનાની રસીના કુલ ૭ અબજ ૪૯૩ કરોડથી વધુ ડોઝ આપવામાં આવ્યા છે.

## ૧૦૦ પ્રભાવશાળી મુસ્લિમોની યાદીમાં બિલ્કીસબાનુ અને ઈલ્હામ તોથીનો સમાવેશ

અગાઉ ફોબોર્સ મેગેઝીનમાં વિશ્વના પ્રભાવશાળી વ્યક્તિની લિસ્ટમાં ભારતની ૮૨ વર્ષની વૃદ્ધ મહિલા બિલ્કીસબાનુ જે “દાદી” ના હુલામણાં નામથી પ્રખ્યાત થઈ હતી, તેમનું નામ ઝળક્યું હતું અને દુનિયાના લોકોને એમના અંગે વધુ જાણકારી મળી હતી.

દિલ્હીમાં શાહીનબાગ ખાતે સીએએ-એનઆરસીના વિરોધમાં મુસ્લિમ મહિલાઓએ દેખાવો કર્યા હતા અને તે ૧૦૦ દિવસથી વધુ ચાલ્યા હતા. જેમાં ૮૨ વર્ષની વૃદ્ધ મહિલા બિલ્કીસબાનુએ દરરોજ સતત હાજરી આપી મીડિયાનું ધ્યાન ખેંચ્યું હતું. કોરોનાના કેસો વધતા આ દેખાવો બંધ કરાવવામાં આવ્યા હતા. એક એવું સંગઠન છે જે વિશ્વના ૫૦૦ પ્રભાવશાળી મુસ્લિમોના નામનું લીસ્ટ બહાર પાડે છે. હાલમાં તેમણે બહાર પડેલ ૨૦૨૧ના વર્ષના ૫૦૦ મુસ્લિમ પ્રભાવશાળી વ્યક્તિઓની યાદીમાં ફરીથી બિલ્કીસબાનુનો સમાવેશ કરવામાં આવ્યો છે.

ઉપરાંત આ લિસ્ટમાં અર્થશાસ્ત્રના પ્રોફેસર ઈલ્હામ તોથીનો પણ સમાવેશ કરવામાં આવ્યો છે. તોથીને ૨૦૦૯માં અલગાવવાદના આરોપમાં ગીરફતાર કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા અને જેલમાં પૂરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. તેમણે ઉગર મુસ્લિમોના અધિકારો અને તેમની સંસ્કૃતિની હિમાયત કરી હતી અને ચીની સરકાર વિરૂદ્ધ તેમની સાથેના દુરવ્યવહાર અને જુલ્મો માટે ઝુંબેશ ચલાવી હતી. આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય દબાણને પરિણામે તેમને પછી છોડી મૂકવામાં આવ્યા હતા. ૨૦૧૪માં તેમની ફરીથી ધરપકડ કરવામાં આવી હતી અને ત્યારથી તેઓ જેલમાં છે.

## કૃષિ કાયદાઓને રદ કરવાની જાહેરાત

ગયા માસમાં ભારતના વડાપ્રધાન મોદીએ વિવાદસ્પદ કૃષિ કાયદાઓ પાછા ખેંચવાની જાહેરાત કરી છે. આ જાહેરાત શીખોના ધર્મગૂરૂ ગૂરૂ નાનકની જન્મ જયંતિના દિવસે કરી હતી. મોદીએ પોતાના શાસનકાળમાં પહેલી વખત માફી માંગી કહ્યું હતું કે, તેઓ આ કાયદાની સત્યતા સમજાવી શક્યા નહીં. છેલ્લા એક વર્ષથી ભારતના અનેક રાજ્યોના ખેડૂતો દિલ્હીની બોર્ડર ઉપર કૃષિ અંગેના ત્રણ કાયદાઓ વિરૂદ્ધ આંદોલન કરી રહ્યા હતા. જેમાં ૭૦૦થી વધુ ખેડૂતોના મૃત્યુ થયા હતા. આ આંદોલન સૌથી લાંબું ચાલેલ વિશ્વનું એક આંદોલન બન્યું હતું. આ કાયદાથી ખેડૂતોને ખેતીમાં ભયંકર નુકસાન અને વેપારીઓને વધુ ફાયદો પહોંચાડવાની સરકારની નીતિ હતી.

પરંતુ કિસાનોએ જોરદાર લડત આપી હતી. આવતા વર્ષે પંજાબ, ઉ.પ્રદેશ સહિત પાંચ રાજ્યોમાં વિધાનભાની ચૂંટણીઓ આવી રહી છે અને બીજેપી સરકાર તેમની બહુમતી ગુમાવશે, એવી પરિસ્થિતિ સર્જાય રહી છે. જેથી ફરી ચૂંટણી જીતવાના ભાગ રૂપે આ જાહેરાત કરી છે. ખેડૂતોના નેતાઓએ સંસદમાં આ કૃષિ કાયદાઓ રદ ન થાય ત્યાં સુધી આંદોલન ચાલુ રાખવાના સંકેત આપ્યા છે.

## کوڈ 19: یورپ میں کورونا وائرس کی وبا کی وجہ سے پر تشدد مظاہرے کیوں ہو رہے ہیں؟

صرف چند ماہ پہلے تک یورپ میں کورونا وائرس کے کیسز اس عالمی وبا کے آغاز کے بعد سے کم ترین سطح پر تھے۔ مگر اس ہفتے یورپ میں متعدد مقامات پر کورونا وائرس کی وبا سے نمٹنے کے حوالے سے احتجاجی مظاہرے دیکھے گئے جن میں پولیس کو تعینات کرنا پڑا اور گاڑیوں کو آگ لگائے جانے کے پر تشدد واقعات بھی ہوئے۔

گذشتہ اختتام ہفتہ کو متعدد ممالک میں مظاہرین سڑکوں پر نکل آئے۔ ہالینڈ میں مظاہرین پولیس سے لڑے، پولیس پر پتھر اڑا کیا اور گاڑیاں جلائیں۔ حکام نے جوابی کارروائی میں لاطھی چارج کیا، واٹر کینن استعمال کیا اور کتوں اور گھوڑوں کی مدد سے مظاہرین کو پیچھے دھکیلنے کی کوشش کی۔ ہالینڈ کے وزیر اعظم مارک رتنے نے اس مظاہروں کو شفاف تشدد قرار دیا۔ ادھر بلیجیم میں بھی مظاہرے پر تشدد ہو گئے اور پولیس کی گاڑیوں کو نقصان پہنچایا گیا۔

یہاں بھی حکام نے آنسو گیس اور واٹر کینن کا استعمال کیا۔ سنیچر کے روز آسٹریا کے دارالحکومت ویینا میں دائیں بازو کی جماعت فریڈم پارٹی نے بھی احتجاجی مظاہرہ کیا تاہم وہ قدرے پر امن رہا۔ ان کے علاوہ اٹلی، ڈنمارک، اور کرویئشا میں بھی احتجاجی مظاہرے کیے گئے ہیں۔ اس عرصے کے پیچھے کیسا اس بات کا بنیادی جواب ہے، کورونا وائرس کے حوالے سے لگائی گئی نئی پابندیاں۔ ہالینڈ میں کورونا وائرس کے کیسز میں تیزی کے بعد تین ہفتوں کا جزوی لاک ڈاؤن لگایا گیا تھا۔ شراب خانوں اور ریورانوں کو جلدی بند کرنا تھا اور کھیلوں کے مقابلوں پر تماشائیوں پر پابندی لگادی گئی تھی۔ بلیجیم میں چہرے پر ماسک پہننے کے قوانین سخت تر کر دیے گئے تھے، اور ان مقامات پر بھی یہ پابندی لاگو تھی جہاں جانے کے لیے پہلے ہی کووڈ پاس درکار تھے جیسے کہ ریوران وغیرہ۔

## عظیم رفیق: یارکشائر کے سابق کرکٹر کے مطابق انگلش کرکٹ

### میں ادارے کی سطح پر، نسل پرستی موجود ہے

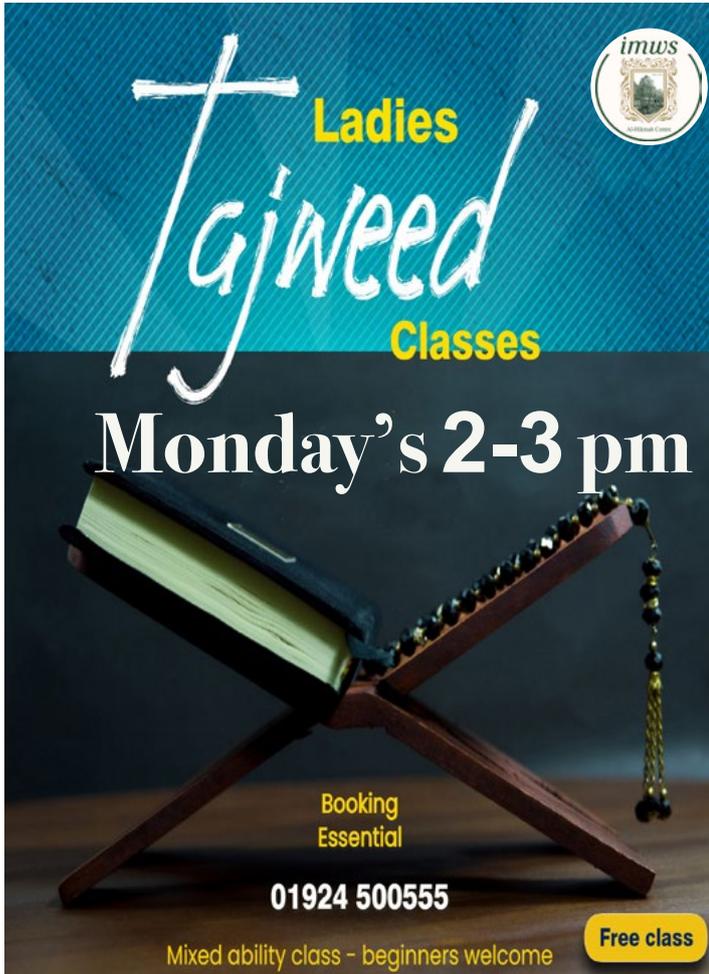
یارکشائر کے سابق کھلاڑی عظیم رفیق کا کہنا ہے کہ انگلش کرکٹ میں 'ادارے کی سطح پر، نسل پرستی موجود ہے۔ 30 سالہ رفیق نے برطانوی پارلیمنٹ کی ڈیپٹی، کلچر، میڈیا اور سپورٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ ان کے یارکشائر کلب کے دور میں نسل پرستانہ جملوں کا باقاعدہ استعمال ہوتا تھا۔ یاد رہے کہ عظیم رفیق یارکشائر کلب کے خلاف نسل پرستی کے الزامات کے بعد پارلیمنٹ کی کمیٹی کے سامنے مزید شواہد دینے کے لیے پیش ہو رہے ہیں۔

انہوں نے گواہی دیتے ہوئے جذباتی بیان میں کہا کہ جب 2017 میں ان کے ہاں مردہ بچہ پیدا ہوا تو کلب نے ان کے ساتھ بہت 'غیر انسانی' سلوک کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جن مسائل کا انہیں یارکشائر میں سامنا ہوا وہ 'غیر کسی شک کے' ڈومیسٹک کرکٹ میں وسیع پیمانے پر پھیلے ہوئے ہیں۔ رفیق نے کہا کہ وہ اپنا کیریئر نسل پرستی کے ہاتھوں کھو چکے ہیں، جو کہ ایک 'خوفناک احساس' ہے، لیکن اس کے متعلق کھل کر بولنے سے انہیں امید ہے کہ اگلے پانچ برسوں میں بڑے پیمانے پر تبدیلی آئے گی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا: 'میں صرف قبولیت چاہتا

تھا، ایک معذرت، ایک اور اک، اور چلو مل کر کوشش کرتے ہیں کہ ایسا دوبارہ نہ ہو۔' میں اسے جانے نہیں دینا چاہتا تھا، چاہے مجھے جتنا بھی نقصان ہو جائے۔ میں بے آوازوں کی آواز بننے کے لیے پر عزم تھا۔'

عظیم رفیق کے بیان کے اہم نکات:

- ✓ وہ ہمیشہ صرف یہ چاہتے تھے کہ ان کا انگلیڈ کے لیے کھیلنے کا خواب پورا ہو
- ✓ نسل پرستانہ زبان، بشمول وہ اصطلاحات جو ان کے اور پاکستانی میراث رکھنے والے دوسرے افراد کو نشانہ بناتیں، ان کے یارکشائر کے دور میں 'مسلسل' استعمال کی جاتی تھیں اور اس رویے کا کبھی خاتمہ نہیں کیا گیا۔
- ✓ ان اصطلاحات کا استعمال نسل پرستانہ تھا اور وہ مذاق نہیں تھا جیسا کہ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے
- ✓ جب دوسروں نے ان کی ٹیم کے ساتھیوں اور کوچنگ اسٹاف کے سامنے نسل پرستانہ جملے استعمال کیے اور انہیں روکا نہیں گیا تو انہوں نے اپنے آپ کو 'تنبہ' اور 'سوا' محسوس کیا۔
- ✓ اس طرح کی زبان کا استعمال اتنا عام تھا کہ 'نارم' یا معیار بن گیا اور کلب میں لوگ اسے غلط نہیں سمجھتے تھے۔
- ✓ انہیں 'احساس نہیں ہوا' اور 2014 تک یارکشائر میں اپنے پہلے دور کے دوران زیادہ تر اس مسئلے کے پیمانے کے بارے میں 'انکاری' رہے۔
- ✓ جب وہ 2016 میں اپنے دوسرے دور کے لیے واپس آئے تو انہوں نے سوچا کہ 'چیزیں بدل گئی ہیں۔'
- ✓ لیکن اس سال کے آخر میں گیری بیلنس کی کپتانی سنبھالنے کے بعد ماحول 'زہریلا' ہو گیا، اس کے فوراً بعد جیمس گلکسی کی جگہ سابق بے بائیئر ریوگیل ہیڈ کوچ بن گئے۔
- ✓ 15 سال کی عمر اور بچے عقائد کا مسلمان ہونے کے باوجود ان کے مقامی کرکٹ کلب میں ایک سینیئر کھلاڑی نے انہیں پکڑ لیا اور ان کے منہ میں ریڈوائن ڈال دی گئی۔
- ✓ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس کے بعد انہوں نے 2012 تک اس وقت تک دوبارہ شراب کو ہاتھ نہیں لگایا جب انہیں لگا کہ یارکشائر میں 'گھلنے کے لیے' انہیں ایسا کرنا پڑے گا۔
- ✓ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ مکمل (انسان) نہیں تھے، اور جو کچھ چیزیں انہوں نے شراب پینے کے دوران کہیں اور کہیں انہیں اس پر 'دفتر نہیں' ہے، لیکن ان کا اس نسل پرستی سے 'کوئی تعلق نہیں'، جس کا انہیں نشانہ بنایا گیا تھا۔
- ✓ ان کے الزامات کے متعلق رپورٹ کافی حد تک 'ناقص' تھی اور پینل اہم گواہوں سے بات کرنے میں ناکام رہا تھا۔ ایک رپورٹ سامنے آنے کے بعد کہ رفیق 'نسلی تعصب اور بلیسٹنگ' کا نشانہ بنے وہ ممبران پارلیمنٹ کے سامنے اپنا بیان ریکارڈ کر رہے تھے، لیکن کلب نے کہا ہے کہ وہ کسی کے خلاف انضباطی کارروائی نہیں کریں گے۔



**Ladies**  
*Tajweed*  
**Classes**

**Monday's 2-3 pm**

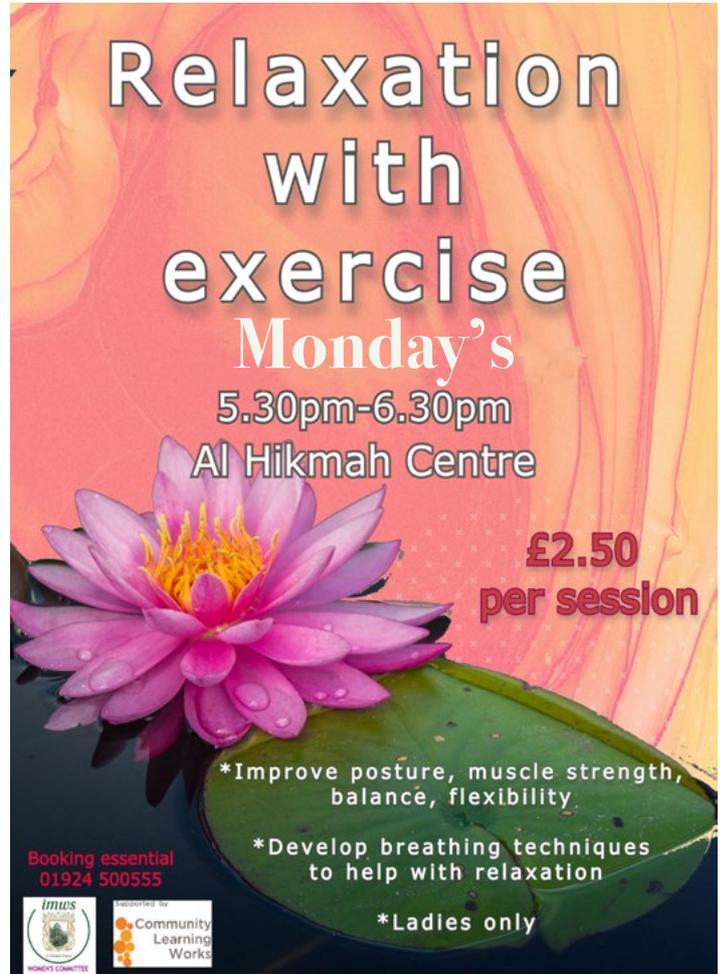
Booking  
Essential

**01924 500555**

Mixed ability class - beginners welcome

**Free class**

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exercise**

**Monday's**  
5.30pm-6.30pm  
Al Hikmah Centre

**£2.50  
per session**

\*Improve posture, muscle strength,  
balance, flexibility

\*Develop breathing techniques  
to help with relaxation

\*Ladies only

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**Provided by IMWS**

**5.15pm-6.15pm**  
**Booking required**  
**Please wear trainers.**

**Please contact: 07974647062**  
**for more information**

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**28 Track Road, Batley, WF17 7AA**  
**01924 500555**

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▶ **3.6 BILLION** ◀

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