

Paigaam

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Is it hopeless being a Muslim in the UK?

New analysis suggests British Muslims face an unprecedented amount of discrimination all across the UK.

Research conducted by the University of Birmingham and data investigation company, YouGov, said the British public are likely to hold discriminatory and negative views on Islam.

The study also found that a significant amount of the general public seem to hold improper and biased conspiracy

led views on British Muslims throughout the UK. It was stated that elderly people, working-class men and those who chose to vote in order to leave the EU, along with ardent supporters of the Conservative Party were most likely to hold Islamophobic views and beliefs.

In addition, support for the prohibition of Muslim migration to the UK is 4-6 per cent higher than it is for other religious and ethnic minority groups. In addition, British people are

making incorrect judgments about Islam in their droves. However, when it came to other non-Abrahamic faiths, the vitriol was less demeaning and offensive.

One such example was that over one in four people believe so-called 'Sharia no-go areas' where non-Muslims are not allowed actually exist. 36.3 percent of those who partook in the survey, mostly Tory and Brexit supporters were also of the opinion that Islam threatens the British way of life.

Is it hopeless being a British Muslim?



Perhaps most surprising was the fact that those from higher social groups such as middle and upper-class communities were more than likely to hold many prejudiced views against Muslims and Islamic beliefs as opposed to those from perceived lower-class groups.

“Prejudice towards Islam and Muslims stands out in the UK, not only because it is much more widespread than most forms of racism, but also because prejudice toward Islam is more common among those who are wealthier and well-educated,” said Stephen H. Jones, the lead author of the study.

“No one is calling for laws regulating criticism of religion, but we have to recognise that the British public has been systematically mis-educated about Islamic tradition and take steps to remedy this,” Jones added.

According to the former female Muslim minister, 49-year-old Nusrat Ghani, it is one of the worst identities you could have especially if you are a Muslim woman who was working at governmental level.

“I was told that at the reshuffle meeting in Downing Street that ‘Muslimness’ was raised as an ‘issue’, that my ‘Muslim woman minister’ status was making colleagues uncomfortable,” said Ghani, who was fired from her ministerial job in Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Conservative government in February 2020.

“I will not pretend that this hasn’t shaken my faith in the party and I have at times seriously considered whether to continue as an MP.”

Ghani’s remarks come after William Wragg, one of her Conservative colleagues, accused government whips of attempting to blackmail MPs trying to force Johnson from

office over public anger about parties held at his Downing Street office during COVID lockdowns.

The scandals have drained public support from both Johnson personally and his party, presenting him with the most serious crisis of his remiership.

Johnson has said he had neither seen nor heard any evidence to support Wragg’s claims. His office has said it would look at any such evidence “very carefully”.

This year, groups have been calling on the government to adopt an official definition of Islamophobia as proposed by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (APPG).

In a 2018 report, the APPG wrote: “Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness and perceived Muslimness.”

While the definition has been accepted by the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats and the London Mayor’s office, a government spokesperson told the BBC in 2019 that it needed “careful consideration”.

Two years later, there is still no formal definition. Although there are no known statistics around which demographic is most affected by Islamophobia, MEND’s work shows that those who appear visibly Muslim, such as women who wear the hijab or niqab, are likely to be targeted.

In a recent parliamentary debate, a number of Muslim MP’s said they believe defining Islamophobia is “the first step in rooting it out” and will “establish a mechanism for accountability”.

According to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics, there are approximately 3.4 million Muslims in the UK, making up around five per cent of the total 67.2 million population.

In 2018, a report by Ipsos MORI found that 57 per cent of the UK population feel they do not have a “good understanding” of Islam. This figure increased to 72 per cent among those who do not personally know someone who is Muslim.

Researchers said this lack of understanding is likely to give rise to misconceptions, with 62 per cent of respondents stating that they believe Islam negatively impacts the quality of life of Muslims.

IMWS new Logo competition

Readers of Paigaam and community members are invited to take part in designing the new IMWS logo complete with a strapline.

The competition is open to everyone including adults and children.

The closing date is **28th February 2022**.

To help you with this task we would like you to visit our web site: www.imws.org.uk for information about the organisation. Participants are asked to send in their designs via e-mail to: info@imws.org.uk in Jpeg format.

Those who would like to submit paper entries, please hand your entries in a sealed envelope with your name, contact details and age to reception staff at the Al-Hikmah Centre. The winner will be awarded a special prize.



This is our current logo, can you create something different?



The previous IMWS Logo was used until 2021

IMWS Lecture with Zara Mohammed

Zara Mohammed is the first female, youngest and first Scottish Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain. Her role is to provide strategic direction and leadership for the largest and most diverse Muslim umbrella organisation in the UK. Her vision is to invest in young people, inspire more women into leadership and build partnerships across society.

M C B
The Muslim Council of Britain

Subjects Covered:
1. Challenges for Muslims
2. Playing an equal part in today's society - a Muslim's perspective.
3. Effective campaigning to bring about positive change in society.

EVENT OPEN TO ALL

Saturday 5th March 2022
6.15 -7.00 pm followed by Q&A
Al-Hikmah Centre
28 Track Road, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7AA

For further information please contact
Indian Muslim Welfare Society (IMWS)
on 01924 500555
www.imws.org.uk

INDIAN MUSLIM WELFARE SOCIETY

All members are invited to attend the 64th Annual General Meeting on:

Date: Sunday 27th February 2022 - Time: 7.30 p.m

Dinner will be served from 6.30 pm until 7.15 pm

(Isha namaaz 7:17 pm)

Venue: Al-Hikmah Centre, 28 Track Road, Batley

AGM AGENDA

1. Tilawate Quran
2. Welcome and Address by the Chair
3. Approval of Minutes of last year's AGM
4. Matters Arising
5. Presentation of Accounts
6. Re-appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of Trustees & Chair
8. Any Other Business
9. Duaa

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As the region's only monthly trilingual publication, Paigaam was established in 1993 by IMWS to provide the community with a voice.

Coupled with a readership of over 30,000 across areas of North Kirklees including Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike and the wider areas, the publication provides the community with local, regional, national and international news stories and features.



Paigaam ID-19 vaccine: **is your choice!**

Boris Johnson visits Al-Hikmah Centre

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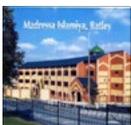
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Please email your CV to: office@danursery.org

For further information please call the nursery manager on 01924 423786 or 07889 276873 during nursery hours (9am-3.30pm).



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Money raised for IMWS Gaza winter appeal distributed

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society recently sent thousands of pounds to help provide much needed aid as part of its annual Gaza winter appeal.

The society raised £16,494.50 which was provided to our long-term charity partner, Palestine Welfare House which is based in Gaza.

Palestine Welfare House proceeded to distribute a plethora of items to 700 poor and orphan families along with unemployed people with a significant number of dependants in the Jabaliya City, Beit Lahiya, Jabaliya Camp, Dair Albalah, Khan Younis camp and Rafah areas of the Gaza Strip.

The rationale behind the project was to help and support poor families by providing them with winter blankets, clothes, gas stoves and cylinders of gas to help see them through the

winter months. In total, 385 double layered winter blankets were distributed to families during the cold winter season. 200 winter clothes packages were distributed to 200 poor and orphaned children in order to help them stay warm. The package consisted of trousers, blouse, jacket, winter hat, socks and shoes.

In addition, 115 families, many of whom have children or are looking after orphans received gas stoves and cylinders with 5kg weight of gas. Munir Daji of IMWS thanked members for taking the time to donate money to Gaza and appealed for prayers and donations for all those who are suffering in such a noble and sacred land.

He said: “Thank you very much for your donations to IMWS, your donations have been sent to the people of Gaza who are very grateful. 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.

“Once again, we would like to remind all our members that we have a number of ongoing charity projects all year round, so please feel free to inquire directly if you wish to donate.”

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.

The people of Gaza remained trapped in what is often referred to as the world’s largest prison. Gaza today remains much of the same ruins we saw on circulating pictures during a number

of bombing campaigns. Its rubble streets mean many schools have been operating without a roof or even walls.

Families are seen living and eating on the rubble of what once used to be a home have graced our smart phones screens.

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 who reside in Gaza are facing even harsher conditions with the thought of survival not just for themselves but for their children racing through their worried minds. The situation is complicated further due to the continuous blockade, and the COVID 19 pandemic which has ensured everyone in the area is severely at risk and life has become even more unbearable for people.



IMWS announce scholarships for 50 students in Gujarat

The IMWS charity committee is pleased to announce 50 students who have excelled across a number of disciplines as part of the South Gujarat Project have been awarded with scholarships.

Students underwent a vetting process which was overseen by members of the IMWS Executive Committee who visit India every year in order to administer projects which are completed in collaboration with our partner organisations, Alipore Social and Welfare Trust (ASWT) also known as the Alipore Hospital Trust) along with the Bardoli Education Trust.

The IMWS executive committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors and our sister organisation in Alipore Hospital for painstakingly overseeing this worthwhile project all the way from the beginning to ensuring everything was finalised

in a satisfactory manner.

Alipore Social and Welfare Trust (ASWT) look after all our charitable projects such as student bursaries for higher education and empowerment through employment projects for poor and needy families.

IMWS Treasurer, Rafiq Dhabhad and IMWS office bearer Salim Lunat (Gul) told Paigaam about the rationale behind the successful South Gujarat Project, explaining that the project has been running for five years with three principal aims which are empowering individuals, providing scholarships and building homes for those who are in dire need whilst thanking generous contributions of members.

“In terms of scholarships, students are given opportunities to study a number of different subjects such as MBBS, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Nursing and Mechanical Engineering with more than one hundred students benefitting from the

scholarships across twenty-five villages,” said Mr Gul.

“We take around 50 scholarships on offer every year for students to go onto higher education,” added Mr Dabhad.

“Students whom we have sponsored have graduated and become doctors. Those who show academic promise and good behaviour generally apply for scholarships.

“Our aim is to empower them so that they can one day, attain a position in which they can also give Zakat.”

Mr Dabhad also proudly spoke mentioned the fact that one particular student who is a Sayyid (descendant of the Holy Prophet. P.B.UH) has also benefitted from the project.

“As those who are from Sayyid families cannot claim take Zakat we have provided them with alternative funds from the IMWS general fund. The student’s parents had to sell their land and other

possessions in order to finance their son’s education. And since they are unable to take zakat, they are still in debt.”

Hence, it is not as if the Society raise the fund and hand it over to a third party. It ensures that all Zakat money is used within Islamic framework and goes to the most deserving cases.

Hence, IMWS has been doing this valuable work for the last five years.

However, we need your help. If we can raise more funds the Society could help many more of our people in India.

If you can help please telephone 01924 500555 to make your donation and equally importantly.

If you qualify for gift aid claim please give your full name and contact details so that the government will top your donation by giving extra 25 percent to the Society for this project.



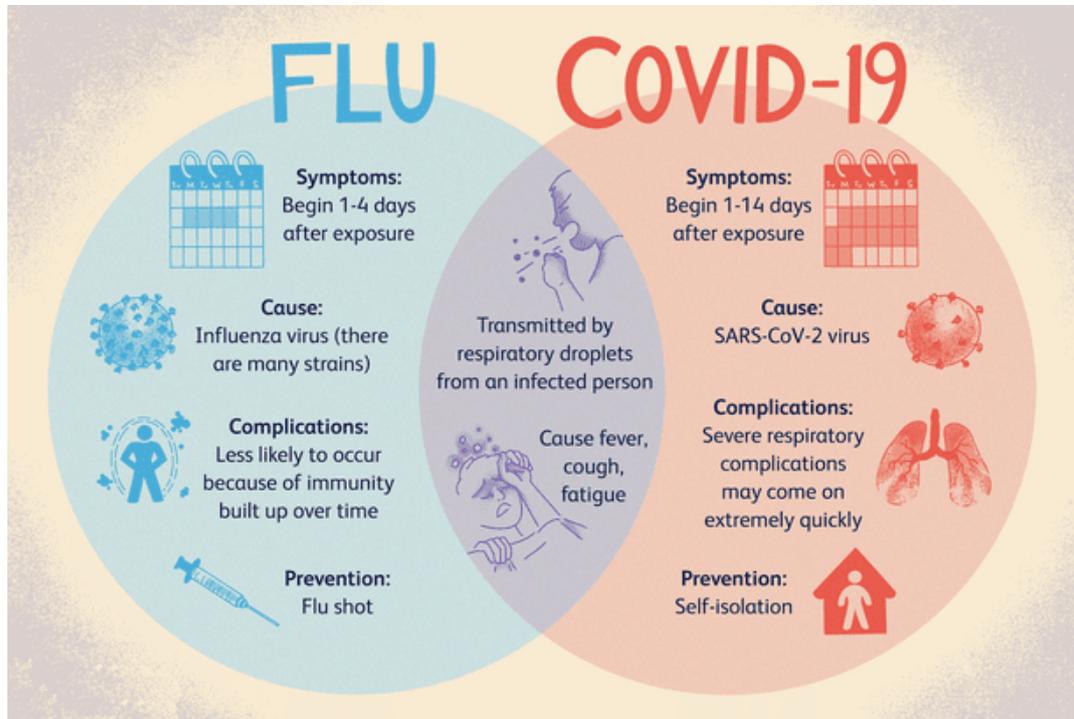
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Why some nations are ready to treat Covid like the flu



And whilst the World Health Organisation (WHO) is warning against labelling Covid as the flu, Spain became the first European country to move towards ending mask mandates.

Health experts in America believe that most of the population will be infected with the Omicron variant, and the WHO itself said more than half of Europe will have the virus in the coming days, both pointing towards it becoming as common as the flu whilst also acknowledging that neither lockdowns nor vaccinations are completely preventing the spread.

In December, newspapers reported ‘Deaths could hit 6,000 a day.’ A day later documents for a Sage meeting were released in which the figures were confirmed which said that, without restrictions over and above ‘Plan B’, deaths would range from 600 to 6,000 a day.

A summary of Sage advice, prepared for the Cabinet, gave three models of what could happen next:

Face “a minimum peak” of 3,000 hospitalisations a day and 600 to 6,000 deaths a day. Implement ‘Stage 2’ restrictions (household bubbles, etc) and cut daily deaths to a lower range: 500 to 3,000. Implement ‘Stage 1’ restrictions (stay-at-home mandates) and cut

deaths even further: to a range of 200 to 2,000 a day

After a long drawn out debate, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he would wait for more data and then decide on whether to implement any restrictions. And it seems he was proved right.

However, this is not the first time Sage’s modelling has been overly negative. Before the summer reopening, Sage modelled bed occupancy and in no fewer than nine scenarios the actual figure was lower than modelled.

We’re often told that models look wrong in hindsight because people adjust their behaviour – or because restrictions are implemented, thereby preventing predicted calamity. But when Sage gloom is ignored and

reopening has gone ahead, their predictions have proved to be wide of the mark.

Invariably Sage modelling has had consequences. If the Sage summer reopening scenarios had been believed lockdown could have been extended – with all the social and economic damage that would entail. If the Sage autumn scenarios had been believed, schools might have remained shut.

If just one December cabinet meeting had gone differently there would have been sweeping restrictions that the real-world data now tells us would have been completely unnecessary.

However, a plethora of governments are said to be considering labelling Covid as an endemic akin to the flu and asking people to live with it.

This led to Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, saying that the UK is “on a path towards transitioning from pandemic to endemic,” whilst Switzerland’s interior minister Alain Berset has told media outlets “We may be on the eve of a watershed, the transition from a pandemic phase to an endemic phase.”

Travel restrictions have been eased in the UK and in several European nations. Many countries have shortened their quarantine time. In Estonia and Iceland, quarantine time has been reduced to seven days whilst Slovenia has also shortened its quarantine time to five days.

Norway, also, is looking forward to relaxing some Covid restrictions. Restrictions in the Netherlands have also been eased.

Why Clause 9 of the borders bill is draconian

The government believe they can somehow show British voters that they can marginalise and incarcerate desperate asylum seekers who attempt to enter the UK along with secretly removing British-born individuals of their citizenship.

These unjust and draconian measures have sparked real concern among 6m Britons, mainly amongst those who do not come from an indigenous British background.

Alarmingly, the bill exempts the Home Office from having to give written notice to those it intended to strip citizenship from, if it was deemed against national security, generally not in the public interest, or merely impossible, to do so.

Tellingly, Home Secretary, Priti Patel can already strip dual nationals of their citizenship in circumstances such as espionage, terrorism or organised crime. She can even apply this to those who were born in Britain and even if it would make the individual stateless but where nationality elsewhere might be granted.

This ensures citizens who were born abroad or those with migrant heritage and a possible claim on foreign citizenship which potentially totals 6m people are in a more difficult position than other UK born citizens.

However, in the past they have had the right to be told of the Home Secretary's attempt to revoke their citizenship, until now. The Home Office insist that the power to remove one's citizenship has existed for more than a century and that it is used sparingly and that there will always be a right to appeal such decisions.

The debate around the controversial Clause 9 of the borders bill rages on as British born people from a plethora of backgrounds have labelled it as “being racist.”

One should note, the right to appeal is not absolute, by the case of British-born Shamima Begum, who remains in limbo after the Supreme Court ruled that public safety outweighed her right to return to challenge her right to British citizenship.

The fact of the matter is that not only is this offensive to Britons who fear that their citizenship could be revoked at the home secretary's discretion, it is also legally questionable. Citizenship is a right, not a privilege, protected by international law to which the UK is compliant.

And although advocates insist powers will only ever be used proportionately and exceptionally, the recent Windrush scandal only served to cause a great deal of suspicion.

Most of all, the thought of an overzealous Home Secretary who has full discretion of who is and isn't British is a chilling prospect.

And although the bill supposedly targets only those who would hurt members of the public, the bottom line is that in a democracy, society is judged not only on how it safeguards those who abide by its laws, but also on how it treats those who serve to break them.





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Shabana's story

Before I accessed Kirkwood's support I was scared just hearing the name.

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Being able to talk to someone who understands my cultural values, and is able to relate to my experiences means that I'm comfortable asking for help. Someone knowing your ups and downs and being able to give you advice to improve your day to day life has been fantastic.

When you are going through a difficult time, you need someone who stands alongside you, with support and encouragement. It's

so reassuring to know that whenever I have had a problem I've not known how to handle,

I've been able to call someone who can talk it through with me and make me feel like I am not alone. Many people from our community think that asking for help is a weakness but if there is support out there to manage your health we should take it.

I want to make sure people know that no matter their background, The Kirkwood are here for you. It's not just for those with cancer, they are here for people with so many conditions; illnesses such as dementia, heart failure and COPD, and for people

who are caring for someone with these conditions.

Thinking back, I had a completely different idea of The Kirkwood. These misconceptions meant I was scared to accept help.

Thank you to everyone from The Kirkwood for listening and offering guidance and support with such dedication – there are no words to adequately thank you.

To find out more about Kirkwood Hospice please contact: 01484 557 900

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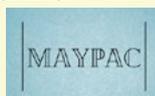
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Bosnian Muslims fear another civil war

For four years after the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, between 1992 and 1995, Bosnia and Herzegovina was under attack by Serb and Croat forces aiming to carve the country up into a Greater Serbia and a Greater Croatia, respectively.

Some 100,000 people, mostly Muslims were killed as Serb forces began attacking villages, towns and cities in Bosnia in the spring of 1992, with the goal to “ethnically cleanse” non-Serbs from the region.

After three and a half years of bloodshed, the conflict was ended by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By early 2008, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia had convicted 45 Serbs, 12 Croats, and four Bosniaks of war crimes committed during the war.

Better known as the Dayton Accords, the peace deal saw the majority Muslim Bosniaks and Serb separatists, who fought under the flag of the Republika Srpska, agree to a single sovereign state.

Now, a quarter of a century on from the peace deal that ended the war, Bosnian Muslims are being confronted by the potential of more deadly sectarian fighting after Milorad Dodik, the Serb member of Bosnia’s tripartite

presidency, announced that the country’s Serb-run entity, Republika Srpska, will quit key state institutions to achieve full autonomy within the country, in violation of the 1995 peace accords.

The crisis began when a leading international diplomat, Valentin Inzko, then the high representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina set out a law banning denial of genocide in the Balkan country to counter attempts by Bosnia’s Serbs to deny the scope of the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica, Europe’s only post-World War II genocide.

Many thousands of Muslims also died in concentration camps run by Serb forces at sites including Omarska and Trnopolje. But the Srebrenica massacre was the most notorious act of genocide. Survivors of the Srebrenica genocide, in which Serb forces systematically killed more than 8,000 Bosniak Muslim men and boys over several days, marked the 26th anniversary of the killings in July.

Coffins with the remains of 19 Bosniaks found in mass graves and identified recently through DNA tests, have only been recently buried in the memorial cemetery for victims of the genocide on the edge of the eastern Bosnian town. Srebrenica was declared a genocide by the International Court of Justice and the International

Criminal Court for Former Yugoslavia. However, Bosnian Serb officials and neighbouring Serbia have refused to accept this.

Dodik also announced that Republika Srpska is pulling out of three key state institutions: the armed forces, top judiciary body and tax administration whilst also banning the Bosnian judiciary, security and intelligence agencies from operating in Republika Srpska.

Instead, “Serb only” institutions will replace these bodies in the entity by end of November: “We want our authorities returned to us. This isn’t anything radical,” Dodik said. “This is for strengthening the position of Republika Srpska.”

When asked by a journalist about how he planned to expel the top Bosnian members of state services from the entity’s territory, Dodik referred to “1992 as the Slovenes did it”, referring to the use of violence during the breakup of Yugoslavia. Serb police also held what they described as an “anti-terrorist” drill just outside the capital Sarajevo. The move was seen by many as another provocation by the Serb separatist leadership.

The exercise took place on 22 October in a ski resort at Mount Jahorina, an “area from where the Bosnian Serb military relentlessly shelled and sniped Sarajevo” during the conflict three decades ago.

Emir Suljagic, director of the Srebrenica Memorial Centre, said “mono-ethnic institutions like the ones Mr. Dodik plans to re-create” were vehicles for genocide in the 1990s.

He said: “Police, military, intelligence, and security services were at the centre of organised and systematic violence against non-Serbs. These institutions considered Bosniaks’ existence an existential threat. If we fail to deter these threats, the ultimate price is another Srebrenica.”

The US has approved new sanctions, including asset freezes and visa bans, on Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik, and two other officials citing “significant corruption and destabilising activities.”

A statement by the US Treasury said: “His divisive ethno-nationalistic rhetoric reflects his efforts to advance these political goals and distract attention from his corrupt activities.”

Former Conservative leader William Hague warned that the western countries which took so long to decide in favour of intervention in the 1990s must “face down” the rising danger as “simmering ethnic tensions in Bosnia will plunge Europe into crisis.”

He added: “The collapse in Afghanistan indicates what happens when the West loses heart and its attention span. This cannot be allowed.”

Threat of genocide against Muslims in India a possibility

Genocide against Muslims in India is a real possibility according to an expert who forewarned mass murder of the Tutsi in Rwanda before it took place in 1994.

The director of Genocide Watch, Gregory Stanton explained to US congress about how he believes genocide is not an event but a process and drew parallels between the policies actively practiced by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the policies and practices Myanmar's government implemented against Rohingya Muslims in 2017.

"We are warning that genocide could very well happen in India," said Mr Stanton. What we are now facing is a very similar kind of a plot," he said.

He also cited the revocation of the special autonomous status of Indian-administered Kashmir in 2019 – which stripped Kashmiris of the special autonomy they had for seven decades – and the Citizenship Amendment Act the same year, which granted citizenship to religious minorities but excluded Muslims.

"What we are now facing is a very similar kind of a plot," he added.

Stanton said the extremist Hindutva ideology was contrary to the history of India and

the Indian constitution and referred to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "extremist who has taken over the government."

In 1989, Stanton said he had warned the then-Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana that "if you don't do something to prevent genocide in your country, there is going to be a genocide here within five years."

The early warning signs were followed by the massacre of 800,000 Tutsis and other Rwandans in 1994.

The former head of Amnesty International in India, Aakar Patel, said Stanton's comments should be taken seriously.

"I think the history on the record of India's civic violence shows either the state does something that provokes the violence (against Muslims) or does not do enough to stop it," Patel said.

"I think the government of India needs to take it seriously. The people outside are naturally alarmed when such things are said in India and nothing is done by the state," he said referring to a recent call for Muslim genocide made at an event by right-wing Hindu groups.

"I think the history on the record of India's civic violence shows either the state does something that provokes the violence (against Muslims) or



does not do enough to stop it. I think the government of India needs to take it seriously.

The people outside are naturally alarmed when such things are said in India and nothing is done by the state."

However, a spokesperson for the ruling BJP government, lambasted Genocide Watch's report.

"First of all, the impression they have created is factually incorrect. There have been instances, but it is not restricted to one community," said a spokesman.

"No such things exist as portrayed. In our society, we have sometimes attacks on each other over reasons like property disputes or other disputes," he added.

“We are warning that genocide could very well happen in India.”

Gregory Stanton of Genocide Watch

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Kim Leadbeater MP column

I hope we can look forward with optimism that the worst of the pandemic is now behind us. And the fantastic staff in the NHS, care homes and other key workers are still there on the front line, in many cases exhausted and over-stretched, but carrying on as they always do to protect the community. It is still vitally important for everybody to get the vaccines and those vital booster jabs and I have joined with the other MPs across Kirklees – Conservative as well as Labour – to urge anybody who hasn't yet come forward to get vaccinated now.

I receive hundreds of email, letters and other messages from my constituents every month and I'm determined to make sure that I and my team of caseworkers respond quickly and effectively when we're asked for help.

Not every problem is something that your MP is best placed to deal with, so I've produced a handy guide to point you towards the best place to go if you need to report an issue or ask for advice. You may get one of my leaflets through your door which you can put on the fridge or keep in a safe place in case you need it, and it's also available to download on my website www.kim4batleyandspen.com

Understandably, many people are hesitant to either talk about their mental health or seek help and support when they need it. Which is why I was delighted to be at the IMWS this week to launch a new booklet 'Healthy Minds, Healthy You'. It outlines the various support that is available across

Batley and Spen, ranging from NHS services to community organisations and charities.

Like so many things, the issue of mental health must be dealt with holistically. There can't be a 'one size fits all' approach. I hope this booklet will be useful too. There are copies at the IMWS for people to take away, and it's also available on my website. And I want to repeat my thanks to the IMWS for their help with such a fantastic venue for the launch.

In the past few weeks, however, many people have been in touch with me regarding the reports of Boris Johnson and the government's breaking of the rules during lockdown, with parties and social gatherings. Many people are extremely upset and angry that the people who were making the rules for us all to follow were not following them themselves – and I have to agree. I think it is insulting to the people of Batley and Spen.

I'm sure many of us would have loved to see family and friends in the sunshine, and to take part in Eid celebrations in the traditional way – never mind visit our sick or dying loved ones or attend their funerals – but we didn't because we wanted to do the right thing. Time will tell whether the Prime Minister will survive this latest scandal but my inbox would suggest that many people have had enough. I've been busy getting on with the job of tackling the issues that matter to people here in Batley and Spen. I'm continuing to press for more resources to tackle dangerous

driving and speeding. I have been very impressed with the work of West Yorkshire Police's 'Operation Torrbank', but we need the resources for a longer-term strategy. I met with concerned residents again this week, and it's not too late to sign my petition to Parliament on this either at IMWS or online through my website.

And I've spoken in the House of Commons about the cost of living crisis. I told my fellow MPs about a local couple whose story really shocked me. He works full time helping people with drug and alcohol problems, she is a children's crisis counsellor. They can't afford to pay this month's gas and electricity bills and are worried about what will happen if they fall behind on their rent.

They are desperately trying to make sure their kids don't suffer, but things are so tight they can't afford to go to the shops for the next two weeks. While the main attention is on the financial impact of the cost of living crisis, I asked MPs to consider that the past couple of years have had a huge impact on people in other ways including their health and well-being.

I just don't understand why the government would want to add the extra stress and pressure of having to struggle with household bills going through the roof, taxes going up and benefits being cut. And we should never forget that while Covid has affected so many of us, there are other life-threatening conditions affecting people of all ages. Many of you will have seen the

story of Beau - a young girl here in Batley and Spen with Stage 4 High Risk Neuroblastoma. She urgently needs potentially life-saving treatment in America and her family are appealing for funds to help pay for it. I am supporting Beau's campaign and you can contribute to the fundraising here: <https://www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk/appeal/beau>

I have my own regular charity of the month and for January it is the Hamm-Damm Foundation in Batley which works to strengthen communities, improve the environment we live in and promote mutual understanding and peace. You can find out more about them here: <https://www.hamm-damm.com/>

In the coming year I will continue to work hard with all stakeholders to improve our town centres, make our roads and pavements safer and make our public services as good as they possibly can be with the resources at their disposal. We have certainly seen the power of community in recent times, with people going above and beyond to help each other.

Kim

P.S. I want to be as accessible to all my constituents as I can. My website address is 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 are working with me and for you.

20th Anniversary of Gujarat Riots

2022 will be a year of anniversaries. The 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's arrest during the Non-Cooperation movement and the 75th anniversary of India's independence from British rule.

However, one anniversary many will not acknowledge is that of the Gujarat riots, where three Batley men were murdered whilst one miraculously survived.

We are referring to the 20th anniversary of the Gujarat riots of February and March 2002. The word, "riots", is, in fact, an understatement; the more precise expression for what happened is "genocide", since the violence was chiefly targeted at the Muslim community.

On the 27th of February 2002, a train coach carrying Hindu pilgrims caught fire in Godhra station in Gujarat. Fifty-eight people died. Within hours and without a shred of evidence, Modi declared that the Pakistani secret services had been to blame; he then had the charred bodies paraded in the main city of Ahmedabad; and let his own party support a state-wide strike for three days.

What followed was mass bloodshed: 1,000 Muslims were killed. However, this

figure was tallied up to more than 2,000 by independent observers.

Those murdered include Sakil and Saeed Dawood went to India with their childhood friend Mohammed Aswat and their 18-year-old nephew, Imran.

Unfortunately, the savagery experienced by these innocent tourists was not unique. In February 2002, whilst returning from a trip to view the Taj Mahal in Aagrah their joyful adventure turned into a nightmare.

Within hours of crossing the Gujarat border, a roadblock, manned by a well-organised mob fuelled by religious hatred, stopped the British tourists. The mob circled the jeep and demanded to know from the occupants their religious identity, the tourists answered that they were British citizens and were indeed Muslims.

The hired driver was then dragged out of the jeep and attacked with sticks and killed on the spot. His body was then thrown back into the vehicle and set alight. In the meantime, the British tourists were chased to a nearby farm.

Mohammed Aswat and Imran were stabbed and left for dead. Imran miraculously survived and he recalls Saeed and Sakil pleading with the mob to spare

all their lives.

When BJP supporters try to dismiss the pogrom of 2002 as history, what they are trying to do is bury their heads in the sand and not acknowledge the shameful violence.

Over that month state sponsored anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat, apparently triggered by the killing of 59 Hindu people in the 'Godra' incident, has claimed the lives of more than 2,000 innocent Indian Muslims. Over 100,000 Muslims, including hundreds of raped women and injured or orphaned children, are still living in relief camps.

The Dawood family has not only endured this terrible tragedy. The grief is compounded by the lack of any serious or thorough Indian police investigation. The family have had to visit the crime scene themselves, find vital clues and collate forensic evidence including the charred remains of bodies.

Although six local people suspected of the murder were arrested, they were released a few months later, suggesting that the arrests were baseless and were out carried out after pressure from the likes of the British government.

As a result of family concerns regarding the police investigation and allegations of state sponsored carnage in

Gujarat, the family demanded the involvement of an independent police force to oversee the investigation.

The Foreign Secretary at the time, Jack Straw offered specialist assistance from the British Police Force. However, 20 years on, the Indian government has remained unmoved.

Moreover, a senior police officer's sworn statement to India's Supreme Court alleges that Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, who is now the Indian Prime Minister deliberately allowed anti-Muslim riots in the state. Sanjiv Bhatt says he attended a meeting at which Modi is alleged to have said that the Hindus should be allowed to vent their anger. Mr Modi has denied any wrongdoing.

Modi has made substantial political capital out of the violence, by winning elections held soon afterwards, by launching hate filled campaigns against minorities. The Muslims of Gujarat remain as fearful and insecure as they were in 2002 and there has not been the remotest sign of any apology, from Narendra Modi or from the BJP.

Modi will no doubt make no comment in relation to the 20th anniversary of the Gujarat riots that occurred under his watch.

There has been a lack of



leadership at all levels

By Ismail Mulla

The recent Ashes series between England and Australia has been an aphorism for the state of cricket in this country.

The game is in turmoil on the pitch and, as the racism scandal brought to light by Azeem Rafiq's powerful testimony has shown, off the pitch too.

No one should have to suffer the dehumanising treatment that the Yorkshire cricketer faced across his two stints at the club.

What followed was a flood of testimonies from other black and Asian cricketers about their encounters with racism. It's clear that the game suffers from institutional racism.

The mere fact that the cricketing authorities had to be dragged into simply accepting there was a problem, tells you just how far it must come to tackle the problem.

There has been a lack of leadership at all levels - going all the way to the top.

The Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) select committee's damning report says it is an "endemic problem across the whole of cricket".

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive Tom Harrison is confident that demonstrable progress can be made following the publication of the report.

To put it bluntly, the ECB, counties and the wider game has no other choice but to make progress and fast.

South Asians and other minorities are often led to believe that whatever path in life you choose to pursue, it is a meritocracy.

That's certainly what the people running cricket in this country want the public to believe.

Well, you can't have a meritocracy if you're discriminating a willing, sizeable and quite often able part of the population when it comes to playing this sport.

When you look at the excuses emanating from the England cricket team Down Under and watch them turn out sorry carbon copy performances test match after test match, surely the question should be what could have been?

What could have been had we not relied on just an elite pocket of mainly public school educated players from similar backgrounds?

What if we hadn't sold the game down the river and only made it accessible to those with money - both in terms of viewership and access to kit.

But more importantly, what if we hadn't spent decades allowing a discriminatory culture to fester, leaning on lazy stereotypes to ensure that

the gatekeepers continued to churn out the same staid, uninspiring automatons. Given the ECB's successful cash grab last summer with The Hundred, the DCMS report might just make them wake up and take action on the problem.

The report recommends that the government should limit public funding for cricket unless there is "continuous, demonstrable progress" on eradicating "deep-seated racism".

The threat of being hit in the pocket may be the only remaining answer to tackling a problem that has been allowed to go on for too long.

The ball is firmly in the court of those running the game. All the way from the ECB down to those grassroots clubs that like to boast about their successful alumni.

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

Moving Ahead

Moving Ahead is a community organisation here to serve the welfare of youth, enhancing personal development, creating youth empowerment and focusing on the general wellbeing of the wider community and ultimately connecting us all to Our Creator.

We would first like to express our gratitude to our volunteers and team which consists of ulema who have supported us wholeheartedly. Thereafter, we extend our thanks to IMWS, MPIT, Madrasah Mahmoodia, Spark Skills and the community for helping us get off the ground. Alhamdulillah, we have had a fantastic response, all praise and gratitude to the Almighty for the success up to and beyond now.

We have had a good working relationship with IMWS and others where

our team of dedicated volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide recreational activities and events at various venues, the Al Hikmah Centre being one of them over a period of 4 weeks.

During the timeline of December and January we have delivered girls activities, arts and craft sessions, with the full support and help from our partners Spark Skills Ltd. It's been an amazing relationship where we have provided children with arts and crafts activities with assistance from Creative Seams, team bonding exercises and games, multisports activities, including prizes from Moving Ahead.

For the boys we have also done similar by creating football competitions for different age ranges with support from sponsors such as Chumchee, Frankies & Shaketown Express, providing prizes and gifts to our winners. One of our events in December looked at tackling

the increasing worry revolving around Addictions. Alhamdulillah, we had a good turnout where advices were imparted, partially delivered by Naeem of CHART who deserves a mention for his efforts in making the event fruitful and overall for the support he has given us.

Moving Ahead continues to grow, so please follow us on our social media platforms. We thank IMWS for being one of the venues providing the facilities for making this successful. We take this opportunity to apologise to those who we couldn't cater for due to being at full capacity, such is the demand for these events in the community.

We have received amazing feedback from parents, and encourage them to continuously support us. We hope this is a stepping stone for events like these to become embedded within our communities in all areas.

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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Every human being has two angels accompanying him all the time. What are their names?

Value of Salah in Masjidul Aqsa

Value of Salah in Masjidun Nabawi

What are the names of the angels who will question a person in the grave?

What causes inconvenience to the angels?

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Brain Teasers

Riddle 1: What goes up but never comes down?

Riddle 2: A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single hair on his head wet. Why?

Riddle 3: What gets wet while drying?

Riddle 4: What can you keep after giving to someone?

Riddle 5: You see a boat filled with people, yet there isn't a single person on board. How is that possible?

Riddle 6: You walk into a room that contains a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle and a fireplace. What would you light first?

Riddle 7: A man dies of old age on his 25 birthday. How is this possible?

The Golden Age of Islam

h	g	h	a	b	b	a	s	i	d	d	s	j	i
b	o	o	q	l	n	t	a	h	k	d	m	r	e
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j	n	s	r	e	t	c	a	n	h	z	p	e	i

Hijrah	Rashidun	river Tigris
House of Wisdom	Umayyad	the Mongols
caliph	Abbasid	Islamic Empire
caliphate	Baghdad	Golden Age

Answers

1. Answer: Your age
2. Answer: He was bald.
3. Answer: A towel
4. Answer: Your word
5. Answer: All the people on the boat are married.
6. Answer: The match
7. Answer: He was born on February 29.



Legal Column

The following is an introduction to the victimisation and harassment sections of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA)

VICTIMISATION

The law is intended to protect those who want to speak out against discrimination, and to ensure they feel able to do so.

Under the act, it is victimisation to subject a person to a detriment because he or she has done a protected act or because it is believed he or she has done or may do a protected act.

A protected act is:

- a- Bringing proceedings under the EqA 2010.
- b- Giving evidence or information in connection with proceedings under the Act.
- c- Doing any other thing for the purposes or in connection with the Act.

d- Making an allegation that someone has contravened with the Act.

e- Making or seeking a relevant pay disclosure at work.

Protected acts could include making oral allegations of discrimination; writing letters of complaint alleging discrimination; approaching the EHRC taking out a discrimination grievance at work.

HARASSMENT

Harassment for the purpose of this Act has a different definition to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Under the EqA 2010 harassment occurs where:

- a- A person engages in unwanted conduct related to a protected characteristic
- b- Which has the purpose of effect of Violating the claimant's dignity or subjecting the claimant to an intimidating, hostile, degrading,

humiliating or offensive environment.

c- Violating the claimant's dignity or subjecting the claimant to an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Where the conduct did not have that purpose, each of the following must be taken into account in deciding whether it had that effect. The claimant's perception, the other circumstances of the case, where it is reasonable for the conduct to have that effect.

A one-off act can amount to harassment for example, a hostile and offensive remark. Suggesting to a female Asian employee that she might be married off in India, was found to constitute unlawful harassment in the employment sphere.

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.

Headaches: symptoms and treatment

The first step in foiling your frequent headaches is determining what type of headache you have. Sometimes headaches are a symptom of another disease or condition; sometimes there's no clear cause.

Take a close look at your headache signs and symptoms. Keeping a headache diary might help determine your headache type. Note when your headaches occur, your symptoms, and potential triggers, such as food, stress or changes in sleep.

There are many types and sub-types of headaches. Chronic daily headaches, which occur 15 days or more a month, are one sub-type. Tension-type headaches and migraines are also common sub-types of headaches. They can both be chronic, though they aren't always. Other types of chronic daily headaches include:

Hemicrania continua, a one-sided headache that can feel like a migraine.

Primary stabbing headaches, which last for a few seconds and can occur several times throughout the day Primary exertional headaches, caused by exercise.

Chronic paroxysmal hemicranias, sharp, one-sided headaches that can cause tearing or a congested nose.

Medication overuse headaches, which occur from overusing pain medications for headaches for at least three months. These headaches occur at least 15 days out of the month.

Other headache types include:

Cluster headaches, which cause severe pain on one side of the head and occur off and on for weeks over the course of a few months. Cluster headaches are associated with one or more signs and symptoms, such as tearing, nasal congestion and nasal discharge. These occur on the same side as the pain.

Tension-type headaches

Tension-type headaches are the most common variety of headaches.

They might be felt as a tight band of pain around your head, a dull ache or pressure which causes moderate pain on both sides of the head and vary widely in frequency although they can be occasional and may occur more than 15 days a month

(chronic)

Treatment

Most occasional tension-type headaches are easily treated with over-the-counter medications, including:

Aspirin
Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others)
Acetaminophen (Tylenol, others)
Daily prescription medications, including tricyclic antidepressants, might manage chronic tension-type headaches. Alternative therapies aimed at stress reduction might help. They include:

Cognitive behavioral therapy
Biofeedback
Massage therapy
Acupuncture
Migraines

Migraines are another common type of headache. They affect three times more women than men. Migraines typically:

Cause pain that is moderate to severe
Pulsate, cause nausea, vomiting, or increased sensitivity to light or sound. They affect only one side of your head, but can affect both sides and can worsen with activity such as climbing steps and last from four to 72 hours without treatment

Treatment

Migraine treatment is aimed at relieving symptoms and preventing additional attacks. If you know what triggers your migraines, avoiding those triggers and learning how to manage them can help prevent migraines or lessen the pain.

Treatment might include:

Rest in a quiet, dark room
Hot or cold compresses to your head or neck.
Massage and small amounts of caffeine
Over-the-counter medications such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others), acetaminophen and paracetamol.

Recognize emergency symptoms

Seek emergency care if you have:

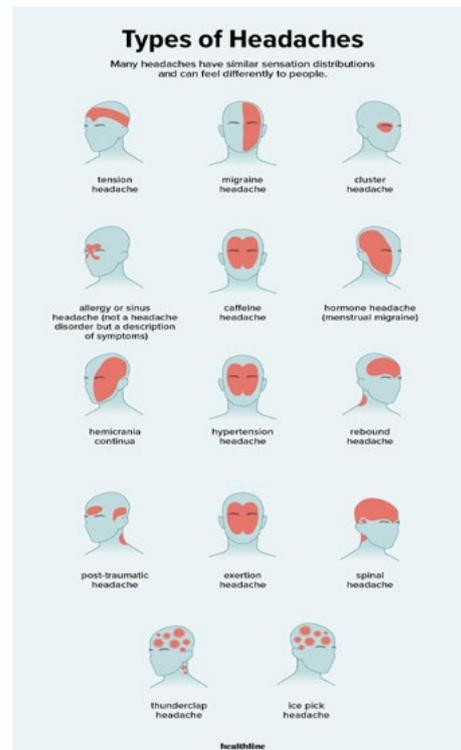
A very severe, sudden headache.
Headache after a head injury or fall
Fever, stiff neck, rash, confusion, seizure, double vision, weakness, numbness or difficulty speaking, pain that worsens despite treatment.

These symptoms suggest a more serious condition, so it's important to get a prompt diagnosis and treatment.

Take control

Almost everyone gets headaches, and many are nothing to worry about. But if headaches are disrupting your activities, work or personal life, it's time to see your doctor.

Headaches can't always be prevented, but your doctor can help you manage the symptoms.



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 | info@imws.org.uk

'NHS CHARITIES TOGETHER' FUND:

The programme aims to increase outreach, engagement and communication with residents from the BAME community in North Kirklees who are disproportionately impacted by Covid-19.

Do you know, or work with, a community group or organisation who could help? We are looking for groups and organisations that can come up with creative ideas to support these individuals health and mental wellbeing.

THE FUNDING PROGRAMME IS NOW OPEN FOR SMALLER GRANTS OF UP TO £1K TO COMMUNITY GROUPS IN NORTH KIRKLEES. BIDS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED BY 4TH MARCH 2022.

Groups can apply for the funding by requesting a bid application from Mansoor Aftab (Project Lead) at Mansoor.aftab@swyt.nhs.uk or 07810 153087 or from Yasmin Arshad at Yasmin.Arshad@swyt.nhs.uk.

ચાલો આજે કંઈક સાડું જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ કભાસ

કોઈએ કમાલની વાત કહી છે કે, આ દુનિયામાં કોઈને ડર છે અને કોઈને વિશ્વાસ છે કે, ઉપરવાળો ખેંચે રહ્યો છે કે, આપણે શું કરી રહ્યા છીએ.

એક કહાણી અમીર વ્યક્તિની જેની પાસે બેશુમાર દોલત હતી. પરંતુ હરપળે તે ઉપરવાળાનો ધન્યવાદ, તેનો એહસાન માનતો રહેતો હતો. એક વખત તે ફરવા માટે દરિયા કિનારે ગયો. ફરી લીધા પછી તેને થયું કે, ચાલો બોટ લઈ દરિયામાં ફરી આવું. તેણે બોટ ભાડેથી લીધી અને દરિયામાં આગળ નીકળી ગયો. થોડેજ પહોંચ્યો હશે કે, અચાનક દરિયામાં તૂફાન આવ્યું અને તેમાં બોટ ઘેરાઈને તૂટકૂટ થઈ ગઈ. તેણે જાન બચાવવા ફટાફટ લાઈફજેકેટ પહેર્યું અને દરિયામાં કૂદી પડ્યો. તરતા તરતા કેટલાક કલાકો પછી તે એક નાના ટાપુ ઉપર પહોંચી ગયો. ટાપુ ઉપર પહોંચતા જ આસ્માન તરફ આંખ ઉઠાવી ઉપરવાળાનો એહસાન માન્યો કે તે આજે મને બચાવી લીધો. નહીં તો તોફાનમાં આજે મારી જિંદગી ખત્મ થઈ જવાની હતી. અને કહ્યું તે મને બચાવ્યો તો આગળનો રસ્તો પણ હવે તમારેજ બતાવવાનો છે. કારણ કે આ નાના ટાપુના ચોતરફ એણે નજર ગુમાવીને જોયું તો કંઈજ દેખાઈ રહ્યું ન હતું. ફક્ત ચારો તરફ પાણી જ હતું.

તેને સમજાઈ ગયું હતું કે, પોતાની જિંદગી ખતરામાં છે. જ્યાં સુધી તેને બચાવવા કોઈ ન આવે ત્યાં સુધી તે ટાપુની બહાર જઈ શકશે નહીં. હવે શું કરે? તેને ભૂખ લાગી. તે જંગલમાં ગયો તો કેટલાક ફૂટ મળ્યા તે ખાઈ લીધા. આવીજ રીતે તેના પંદરેક દિવસ પસાર થઈ ગયા. તેનો ભરોસો કંઈક ઓછો થઈ રહ્યો હતો. પરંતુ બીજી તરફ ઉપરવાળા ઉપર જે ભરોસો હતો તેનાથી માનતો હતો કે, કંઈ ને કંઈ સાડું થશે અને તે બચી જશે. થાકીને ફરીથી આસ્માન તરફ આંખ ઉઠાવી કહેવા લાગ્યો, “માલિક મને બચાવી લો, કોઈને મોકલી આપો જે મને મદદ કરી બચાવી લેય.”

કેટલાક દિવસો પછી તેને લાગ્યું કે એક ઝૂંપડી તૈયાર કરી લે જેથી તેમાં રહેવાનું, સુવાનું થઈ જાય. પથ્થર લાકડા વગેરે ભેગા કરી ૩-૪ દિવસમાં તેણે એક નાની ઝૂંપડી બનાવી લીધી. તેને જોઈને વિચારી રહ્યો હતો કે, આજે તેને ઝૂંપડીમાં રહેવાનું અને સુવાનું મળશે. અચાનક મોસમમાં બદલાવ થવા લાગ્યો. વીજળી પડવા લાગી. અને એકાએક જોરથી વિજળી ખટકી અને તેની ઝૂંપડી ઉપર પડી અને ઝૂંપડી સળગવા લાગી. આગથી ઝૂંપડી ખાક થવા લાગી. હવે આ અમીર માણસ સંપૂર્ણ રીતે તૂટી રહ્યો હતો. તેને લાગ્યું હવે કંઈ થઈ શકે એમ નથી. આસ્માન તરફ નજર ઉઠાવી કહેવા લાગ્યો આપે શું કર્યું? મહામેહનતે મારા સહારા માટે એક ઝૂંપડી તૈયાર કરી હતી તે પણ બળીને ખાખ થઈ રહી છે.

એવામાં દરિયામાંથી એક અવાજ સંભાળ્યો. જોયું તો બે માણસો એક બોટ લઈ તેની તરફ આવી રહ્યા હતા. તેમણે કહ્યું, બોટમાં

આવી જાવ. અમે જોયું કે, ટાપુ ઉપર એક ઝૂંપડી સળગી રહી હતી. જેથી લાગ્યું કે કોઈની જિંદગી અહીં ખતરામાં છે અને તેને મદદની જરૂર છે. ઝૂંપડી સળગાવી તેને મદદ માટેનો ઈશારો કરી રહ્યો છે. અમે તે જોઈને અહીં આવી પહોંચ્યા છે. અમીર માણસે ફરીથી આસ્માન તરફ આંખ ઉઠાવી જોયું, તેની આંખોમાંથી આંસૂ સરી રહ્યા હતા. અને કહ્યું એ પાલનહાર મને ખબર ન હતી કે, તે મારી ઝૂંપડી એટલા માટે સળગાવી કે મારી જિંદગી બચી શકે. મને કોઈ બચાવવા આવી શકે. હું મૂર્ખ હતો કે મારો વિશ્વાસ તમારા ઉપરથી ડગી રહ્યો હતો. હું ધન્યવાદની સાથે માફી પણ માંગુ છું.

આ નાની કહાણી એ શીખવે છે કે, જિંદગીમાં જે પણ સંકટ આવે જો તમારો વિશ્વાસ તેના ઉપર છે તો જિંદગીમાં રોશની છે. ઉમ્મીદની કિરણો તે જરૂરથી લાવશે. ભરોસો કાયમ રાખો.

હળવી પળોમાં !

કુછ લોગ બિના રિશ્તે કે હી રિશ્તે નિભાતે હૈ,

શાયદ વહી લોગ જિંદગીમેં દોસ્ત કહેલાતે હૈ.

જિંદગીમે એસી સોચ રખિયે, જો ખોયા ઉસ્કા ગમ નહીં,
પર જો પાયા હૈ, વહ કિસીસે કમ નહીં.
જો નહીં હૈ વહ એક ખ્વાબ હૈ, પર જો હૈ વહ લાજવાબ હૈ.

ગઝલ

ઓ પાણી તારું રૂપ તો બદલાય છે બરફ
જોઈ દુઃખી બ્રહ્માંડને વંકાય છે બરફ
પ્હાડ જેવા પ્હાડ જ્યાં ઊભા હોય અડગ
જઈ એની ટોચે એ હવે મલકાય છે બરફ
વૃક્ષોની ડાળે ખીલી કૂલોની જેમ એ તો
જાણે વસંતોત્સવ બધે કરી જાય છે બરફ
કંઈ બાળકોની આંખનો ઉત્સાહ થઈ હવે
સ્લેજ નીચે બિચારો કચડાય છે બરફ
થઈને કપાસી રૂપે વરસીને ધરતી ઉપર
ઓઢી સફેદ ચાદર સંતાય છે બરફ
રોકી શક્યું ન કોઈ રસ્તાની આરપાર
અવરોધ થઈ બધેબધ ખડકાય છે બરફ
રૂપરંગ તારો કેવળ હતો સફેદ પણ
કાદવ બની પગો તળે ચગડાય છે બરફ
સૂરજની હૂંફ પામી વાતાવરણમાં સઘળે
પાણી જ પાણી થઈને રેલાય છે બરફ
ડગ ભરવાનું મુશ્કેલ છે તે છતાં સેવક
લલચાવીને ધર બહાર લઈ જાય છે બરફ

-સેવક આલીપોરી, બાટલી.

સમજવા જેવા ઉપયોગી સુવિચારો !

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

- ♦ માણસે હંમેશાં તે સમયે જ બોલવું જોઈએ જ્યારે તેને ખબર હોય કે મારા શબ્દો જે હું બોલી રહ્યો છું, મારા ચૂપ રહેવાથી વધુ સુંદર છે.
- ♦ જબાનથી જે બોલે છે કાલે કયામતમાં તેના સબુત-પૂરાવા બતાવવા પડશે.
- ♦ દોઝખમાં લઈ જવાવાળી વસ્તુ ઝબાન છે.
- ♦ ફરિયાદથી ઝબાનને બંધ રાખો રાહત નસીબ થશે.
- ♦ ઈન્સાનની ઝબાનથી કોઈને તકલીફ પહોંચે તો તે ઈન્સાન કહેવાને લાયક નથી.
- ♦ ઈન્સાનની ઝબાન દોસ્તને દુશ્મન અને દુશ્મનને દોસ્ત બનાવે છે.
- ♦ બે વ્યક્તિ પરસ્પર દલીલો કરે તો ઝઘડાનું સ્વરૂપ ધારણ કરે છે. બન્ને વ્યક્તિ ચૂપ રહે તો શાંતિનું સ્વરૂપ ધારણ કરે છે.
- ♦ દંપત્તિ (પતિ-પત્નિ) છૂટાછેડા (તલાક) માટે ત્યારે જ સંમત થાય છે જ્યારે તેઓ કોઈ પણ બાબત પર સંમત થતાં ન હોય.
- ♦ દિલની શાંતિ જોઈતી હોય તો અદેખાઈ (હસદ)થી દૂર રહો.
- ♦ ખરાબ સોબતમાં બેસવાથી એકાંતમાં રહેવું હજાર ઘણું બેહતર છે.
- ♦ ખરાબ દોસ્તોથી બચો કારણ એ તમારી ઓળખાણ બની જશે.
- ♦ ગુસ્સા ઉપર વિજય એ મહાવિજય છે.
- ♦ ગુસ્સાની હાલતમાં કલમ ન ઉઠાવો કારણ કે, કલમમાં તલવારથી વધુ તાકત હોય છે.
- ♦ સુખ માનવીના જીવનમાં આવે તો એ માનવીના ચહેરા ઉપર પણ દેખાય છે.
- ♦ સત્ય એટલે કે, હક ઉપર હોવા છતાં ઝઘડો દૂર કરવા ખામોશ થઈ જવું એ એક સાચા મોમીનની નિશાની છે.
- ♦ દુનિયામાં પ્રગતિ તેજ કરી શકે છે જે કોઈ કામને મુશ્કિલ નથી સમજતો.
- ♦ ઈન્સાનનો સારો અમલ તેનું પાક ચરિત્ર છે.
- ♦ માનવી ધન દોલત કમાઈને અમીર થયો હોય, પરંતુ સાચો અમીર ત્યારે જ કહેવાય છે કે, જ્યારે એ ધન દોલત ખર્ચી જાણે
- ♦ તમે કોઈના ઉપર સૂરજ થઈને પ્રકાશિત ન શકતા હોય તો કંઈ નહીં, પણ કોઈ પર વાદળ થઈ અંધારામાં ન રાખશો.
- ♦ કોઈ વિષય ન જાણતા હોય તો શરમાવું ન જોઈએ. પણ તમે ન જાણવા માંગતા હોય તો જરૂર શરમાવું જોઈએ.
- ♦ દુશ્મનને અપ્લાક અને અહેસાનથી અને દોસ્તને સારા વર્તનથી જીતો.
- ♦ લોકોની એબ (ખામીઓ) જોવાથી બચો પોતાની ખામીઓ ઉપર નજર રાખો.
- ♦ સૂવા અને જાગવાનો સમય નક્કી કરી લેવું જોઈએ.
- ♦ યાદ રાખો! ખોરાક જ બીમારીનું કારણ બને છે, જેથી ખાવા પહેલાં જોઈ, વિચારી લ્યો કે શું ખાઈ રહ્યા છો.

- ♦ એવી વસ્તુ ન ખાવો જેને તમારા દાંત ચાવી ન શકે. કારણ કે, આવા ખોરાકને તમારું જઠર પણ હજમ ન કરી શકશે. એમાં જઠર અને આંતરડાના રોગો ઉત્પન્ન થવાની સંભાવના રહે છે.
 - ♦ પોષ્ટિક ખોરાક ખાવા ઉપર વધુ ધ્યાન આપો.
 - ♦ ચરબીયુક્ત ખોરાકોથી સાવધાન રહો.
 - ♦ દરેક હકીમોનો એકજ સર્વોત્તમ ઈલાજ પરહેઝ (પરેજી) છે. આ અનેક દવાઓની એક ઉત્તમ દવા છે.
 - ♦ સિગારેટ, તમાકુ અને ગુટકાઓનું વધુ પડતું સેવન કેન્સર અને હર્દયરોગને નોતરે છે.
 - ♦ રાત્રે સૂવા પહેલાં રાતનો ખોરાક ખાઈ લેવું જોઈએ. ખાલી પેટે સૂવું ન જોઈએ.
 - ♦ ખાવા અને સૂવાના વચ્ચે ઓછામાં ઓછો એક કલાકનો તફાવત રાખવું જોઈએ.
 - ♦ રાત્રે ભારી ખોરાક અને તેજ મસાલાવાળો ખોરાક લેવું ન જોઈએ.
 - ♦ રાત્રે હલ્કો અને જલ્દી પચી જાય એવો ખોરાક લેવું જોઈએ.
 - ♦ ગુસ્સાની હાલતમાં ખોરાક ખાવું એવું જ છે જેવું કે ઝેર ખાવું.
 - ♦ ખોરાક એટલો બધો ખાવો ન જોઈએ કે દિવસભર ડકાર અને આળસ આવતી રહે.
 - ♦ ખાતી વેળા થોડી ભૂખ હજુ બાકી રાખવી જોઈએ.
 - ♦ પેટભરીને ખાવાથી કેટલીક બીમારીઓ જન્મ લે છે.
 - ♦ ખાવા પછી તરત પાણી પીવાની આદત ન પાડવી જોઈએ. ખોરાક ખાવાના લગભગ અર્ધો કલાક પછી પાણી પીવું જોઈએ.
 - ♦ ખોરાક ખૂબ ચાવીને ખાવું જોઈએ.
 - ♦ તમારું જઠર ખોરાકને આસાનીથી પચાવી શકે એવો ખોરાક ખાવો જોઈએ.
 - ♦ ચિંતા અને એક ને એક વાતનો વિચાર કરવાથી માનસિક તણાવ ઉત્પન્ન થઈ માણસ ડિપ્રેશનમાં સપડાઈ જાય છે.
 - ♦ પ્રવાહી વસ્તુમાં સૌથી સારો ખોરાક દૂધ છે.
 - ♦ ગળાથી લઈ ફેફસા સુધી સર્વે પ્રકારની બળતરામાં ગરમ પાણીમાં મધ નાંખી પીવું એ અકસીર ઈલાજ છે.
 - ♦ ઉજાગરા કરવાથી આંખ અને મગજ થાકી જાય છે. અને શરીરના તમામ ભાગો અને મુખ્ય અવયવો ઢીલા થઈ જાય છે.
 - ♦ વધુ ચરબીયુક્ત ખોરાક અને તીખા ખોરાકથી બચવું જોઈએ.
 - ♦ બની શકે તો લીલા શાકભાજી અને ફળફળાદી નિયમિત ખાતા રહેવું જોઈએ.
 - ♦ ફાસ્ટફૂડના સેવનથી શરીરના આંતરિક ઘણાં અવયવો ઉપર તેની મોટી અસર પડે છે. જેથી તેનો વપરાશ ઓછો રાખવો જોઈએ.
 - ♦ શાકભાજી, ફૂટ વગેરેને ઘોવા પછી જ ખાવું જોઈએ. કારણ કે આજકાલ એના ઉપર દવા વગેરેનો છટકાવ કરવામાં આવે છે.
- અંતમાં ઉપરોક્ત સુવિચારોમાં આટલું તો જરૂર જાણવા મળ્યું કે, એક મનદુરસ્ત લાખ નેઅમત જ્યારે એક તંદુરસ્તી હજાર નેઅમત છે. અને તળ મળવો સંતોષ એજ આનંદનું મૂળ છે.

સમાચારોની ઝલક



સરકારના ઓલ ઈઝ વેલ ના દાવા વચ્ચે એક વર્ષમાં ગરીબોની સંખ્યા બમણી

એક તરફ મોટી સરકાર ભારતની આર્થિક સ્થિતિ અને વિકાસ સધ્ધર છે અને દેશમાં બધું બરાબર ચાલી રહ્યું છે એવા દાવાઓ કરે છે. તેવા સમયમાં આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય સંસ્થા પેરિસ સ્થિત વર્લ્ડ ઈન ઈક્વિટી લેબ અહેવાલ ૨૦૨૨ અને યુ રીસર્ચ સેન્ટરના તાજેતરના અહેવાલ મુજબ એક રિપોર્ટમાં ચોંકાવનારા આંકડા બહાર પડ્યા છે. જેમાં જણાવાયું છે કે, ભારતમાં ગરીબોની સંખ્યામાં ચિંતાજનક વધારો થયો છે. છેલ્લા એક વર્ષમાં ગરીબોની સંખ્યા બમણી થઈ ગઈ છે. જેથી ભારત દુનિયામાં છેલ્લા ૪૫ વર્ષમાં સૌથી વધુ ગરીબી ધરાવતો દેશ બની ગયો છે. ઉપરાંત ભારતમાં ગરીબો અને માલદારો વચ્ચે આવકની દ્રષ્ટિએ મોટી અસમાનતા છે. છેલ્લા ૧૨ માસમાં ગરીબોનો આ આંકડો ૧૫.૪ કરોડને વટાવી ગયો છે. જેથી ભારત સૌથી વધુ ગરીબી ધરાવતો દેશ બની ગયો છે.

આ રીસર્ચમાં એ પણ માલમ પડ્યું છે કે, મહામારી દરમિયાન મધ્યમ વર્ગના લોકોને સૌથી વધુ અસર થઈ છે. અને તેઓ ગરીબોની શ્રેણીમાં આવી ગયા છે. ઓક્સફામ ઈન્ડિયાના રિપોર્ટમાં પણ કંઈક એવુંજ કહેવામાં આવ્યું છે. જે મુજબ છેલ્લા ત્રણ દાયકામાં ભારતમાં અમીરોની સંપત્તિ વધી રહી છે અને ગરીબો વધુ ગરીબ થઈ રહ્યા છે.

સ્કોલરશિપ પ્રોજેક્ટ અંતર્ગત આલીપોર હોસ્પિટલ ખાતે સ્કોલરશિપ વિતરણ

મંગળવાર તારીખ ૧૧મી જાન્યુઆરીના રોજ આલીપોર ખાતે આલીપોર હોસ્પિટલમાં ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી અને આલીપોર સોશિયલ એન્ડ વેલ્ફેર ટ્રસ્ટના સહયોગથી દક્ષિણ ગુજરાતમાં હાયર એજ્યુકેશન મેળવતા વિદ્યાર્થીઓ માટે સ્કોલરશિપ હેંચણીનો પ્રોગ્રામ રાખવામાં આવ્યો હતો. આપ સૌ જાણો છો કે, છેલ્લા ૫/૬ વર્ષથી આપણી સોસાયટી સાઉથ ગુજરાત ખાતે સ્કોલરશિપ, હાઉસિંગ અને રોજગાર યોજનાના પ્રોજેક્ટ ચલાવે છે. જેનો લાભ જરૂરતમંદ ગરીબોને મળે છે. ગયા વર્ષે હાઉસિંગ અને રોજગાર યોજના પ્રોજેક્ટ માટે ગુજરાત ખાતે જરૂરી સહકાર ન મળતા ફક્ત સ્કોલરશિપ પ્રોજેક્ટ ચાલુ રાખવાનો નિર્ણય લેવામાં આવ્યો હતો.

જે મુજબ ઉપરોક્ત સમારંભમાં સુરત, નવસારી અને વલસાડ જિલ્લાના વિવિધ વિભાગોના લગભગ ૫૦ જેટલા વિદ્યાર્થીઓ જેઓ એમબીબીએસ. ડેન્ટીસ્ટ, અને બીજા હાયર એજ્યુકેશન શ્રેણીમાં અભ્યાસ કરે છે તેમને ચેકથી સ્કોલરશિપની રકમ આપવામાં આવી હતી. ઉપરાંત એક સૈયદ વિદ્યાર્થી જે એમબીબીએસ મેડિકલના છેલ્લા વર્ષમાં અભ્યાસ કરી રહ્યા છે અને તેઓ પોતાની ફીસ અને અન્ય ખર્ચાઓ માટે નાંણા ભીડ

અનુભવી મુશ્કેલીમાં હતા તેમને પણ લીલ્લાહ રકમમાંથી મદદ કરવામાં આવી હતી.

આ પ્રસંગે બ્રિટનથી પધારેલ હનીફભાઈ માયત, સલીમભાઈ લુણાત (ગુલ) અને બ્લેકબર્નના માજી મેયર સલીમભાઈ મુલ્લાંએ પણ હાજરી આપી હતી. આલીપોર સોશિયલ એન્ડ વેલ્ફેર ટ્રસ્ટના ચેરમેન હસનભાઈ માયત જેઓ આ પ્રોજેક્ટને શરૂઆતથી ચલાવી મદદ કરે છે, તેમણે સ્કોલરશિપ યોજનાના હેતુ અને સોસાયટીની મહેનત ઉપર પ્રકાશ પાડી વિગતો સમજાવી દરેકનો આભાર માન્યો હતો. સલીમભાઈ લુણાત, હનીભાઈ માયત, સલીમભાઈ મુલ્લાં અને બારડોલી એજ્યુકેશન ટ્રસ્ટના અહમદભાઈ હાફેઝીએ આ સ્કોલરશિપથી સ્ટુડન્ટોને જે ફાયદો થાય છે અને બ્રિટન ખાતે એ માટે ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી કેવા પ્રયત્નો કરી ફંડ એકત્ર કરે છે તેની વિગત સમજાવી હતી. ઉચ્ચ શિક્ષણ મેળવનારા બાળકો સહિત વાલીઓનો આભાર વ્યક્ત કર્યો હતો. સ્કોલરશિપ મેળવનારા તેમના ક્ષેત્રમાં આગળ વધી જ્યારે તેઓ અભ્યાસ પૂરો કરી ડીગ્રી મેળવી ફારિંગ થયા પછી બીજાઓને પણ મદદ કરવા અનુરોધ કર્યો હતો.

સોસાયટી ઉપરોક્ત દરેક વક્તા, આલીપોર હોસ્પિટલ, બારડોલી એજ્યુકેશન ટ્રસ્ટ, વિદ્યાર્થીઓ અને પ્રોજેક્ટને સફળ બનાવવામાં મદદ કરતા દરેકનો આભાર માને છે.

સાઉદી અરેબિયા પ્રત્યે ફેલાઈ રહેલ રોષની લાગણી

સાઉદી અરેબિયામાં ત્યાંના પ્રિન્સ મોહમ્દ બિન સલમાન તરફથી દેશને મોડર્ન બનાવવા અને પશ્ચિમી દેશોની બિન ઈસ્લામિક પ્રથા ને સાઉદીમાં પ્રોત્સાહન આપવા તથા તેના ઉપર અમલ કરવાની પ્રવૃત્તિઓને લઈને વિશ્વના મુસ્લિમો, સાઉદીના ખાસ ઉલ્માઓ અને સાઉદીની પ્રજામાં રોષની લાગણી ફેલાઈ રહી છે. મક્કા અને મદીનાના પવિત્ર સ્થળો સાથે મુસ્લિમોની આસ્થા અને લાગણી જોડાયેલ છે. વળી આજ દેશથી ઈસ્લામનો ફેલાવો, કુરઆન હદીસના પાઠો, ઈસ્લામની સાચી સમજ અને આપણાં પયગમ્બર સ.અ.વ.ની પેદાઈશ વગેરેથી દુનિયાના મુસલમાનોનો એક ખાસ લગાવ રહ્યો છે.

પરંતુ સાઉદીની ગાદી પર બેસનાર પ્રિન્સ ગેર ઈસ્લામિક કામો કરે અને ઉલ્માઓની અવગણના કરે ત્યારે તમામને ઠેસ પહોંચે એ સ્વાભાવિક છે. હાલમા આ દેશમાં સિનેમા, થીયેટરો, નાચગાનના કોન્સર્ટ અને કસીનો વગેરેમાં લખલૂટ પૈસાનું પાણી અને તેમાં ત્યાંના લોકોની મોટી સંખ્યામાં હાજરી. થોડા સમય ઉપર તબ્લીગી જમાત જે ઈસ્લામનું માર્ગદર્શન અને તેના ઉપર અમલ માટે સાચી સમજ આપવાનું કાર્ય કરે છે તેના ઉપર પ્રતિબંધ, પ્રિન્સની ફૂગુલ ખર્ચા અને તેમનું સરમુખ્તાયરશાહી વલાણ, ઈસ્લામની તેહઝીબ અને શિક્ષણ વિરૂધ્ધ તેમના કામો ઉપરાંત હાલમાંજ હિન્દુ ધર્મના ગ્રંથ ભાગવત ગીતાનું અરેબિક ભાષામાં ભાષાંતરની સાઉદીમાં ૧૫ કરોડ જેટલી કોપીઓની હેંચણી વગેરેથી હવે લોકોમાં ખાસ્સી નારાજગી જોવા મળે છે.

ભારતમાં મુસલમાનોની ચિંતાજનક પરિસ્થિતિ:

ભારત ખાતે મુસલમાનોના હાલાત દિન પ્રતિદિન મુશ્કેલીભર્યા અને ગંભીર થઈ રહ્યા છે. હાલની સરકાર અને આરએસએસના એજન્ડાઓ બહાર આવી રહ્યા છે. એક ખાસ સમુદાય (મુસ્લિમો)ને તેઓ નિશાના ઉપર લઈ રહ્યા છે. અને તેઓ હિન્દુત્વ અને હિન્દુરાજની નીતિ તરફ આગળ વધી રહ્યા છે. કેટલીક વખત સરકારની સીધી સંડોવણી નથી પરંતુ બીજા દળો હિન્દુ વાહિની, બજરંગ દળ કે અન્ય કટ્ટરવાદીઓના સંગઠનો મુસલમાનોને પરેશાન કરી, લીચીંગ અને લવ જેહાદ બાબતોથી તેમનામાં ભયની લાગણી ફેલાવી રહ્યા છે અને તેમાં તેમને સરકારનો સંપૂર્ણ સાથ મળેલ છે. ગયા માસમાં પણ સોશિયલ મીડિયામાં બુલ્લી બાઈ અને ગુલ્લી નામથી આપ બનાવી તેના ઉપર મુસ્લિમ મહિલાઓ જેઓ આગવી ભૂમિકા ભજવી રહી છે કે સારા પદો ઉપર કામ કરી રહી છે તેમની નિલામી બતાવવામાં આવી. જો કે એકાદ બે ગીરફતારી વિના વધુ કોઈ આકરા પગલા ભરાયા નહીં.

ઉ.પ્રદેશના હરિધ્વારમાં કેટલાક કટ્ટરવાદીઓ અને સાધુ સંતોએ ધાર્મિક સંસદનું આયોજન કર્યું જેમાં મુસલમાનો વિરૂદ્ધ આકરા ભાષણો કર્યા અને મુસલમાનોને કત્લેઆમ કરવાની અને હિન્દુઓને તલવારની જગ્યાએ બોમ્બ રાખવાની હિમાયત કરી વધુ બાળકો પેદા કરવા માટે પણ આહવાન કરવામાં આવ્યું. આ માટે સરકાર તદ્દન ચુપ રહી અને કોઈ પણ પગલા ભરવામાં આવ્યા નહીં. જે સરકારનું વલણ છતું કરે છે. કેટલીક એફઆઈઆર નોંધાતા એક બે વ્યક્તિઓની ધરકપકડ થઈ પરંતુ પછી તેમને છોડી મૂકવામાં આવ્યા. આવુંજ કોઈ કામ મુસલમાનોએ કર્યું હોત તો તેના ઉપર આંતકવાદી ધારાઓ લગાવી જેલમાં સડવા પહોંચાડી દીધા હોત. આજ સંસદમાં મહાત્મા ગાંધીને ગાળો ભાંડવામાં આવી અને તેમને મારનાર નથ્યુરામ ગોડસેની પૂજા કરવામાં આવી.

ફેબ્રુઆરી-માર્ચમાં ઉત્તર પ્રદેશ, પંજાબ અને બીજા કેટલાક રાજ્યોમાં વિધાનસભાની ચૂંટણી જાહેર થઈ છે. ઉત્તર પ્રદેશમાં આ વખતે બીજેપી પક્ષને ફરીથી સત્તા ઉપર આવવા મોટી મુશ્કેલીનો સામનો કરવો પડશે, જેથી તેમણે ચૂંટણી પ્રચારમાં કોમવાદી અને જાતિવાદી વલણ અપનાવી ગમે તે પ્રયાસે વોટ હાંસિલ કરવાની પ્રવૃત્તિઓ હાથ ધરી છે. આ વખતની ચૂંટણી ખૂબજ રસાકસી ભરેલી છે અને જોવું રહ્યું પ્રજાનું વલણ કોના તરફ રહેશે.

ગાઝા વિન્ટર પ્રોજેક્ટ:

ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી દર વર્ષે વિન્ટર દરમિયાન ગાઝાના મુસ્લિમો માટે શિયાળાની ઠંડીથી બચવા ગરમ કપડા, બ્લેન્કેટ, સ્ટોવ વગેરે માટે ત્યાંના જરૂરતમંદોને મદદ કરતી આવી છે. આ વર્ષે પણ આ અપીલને આપ સૌ તરફથી સારો એવો સહકાર મળ્યો હતો. પરિણામે એરિયા મસ્જિદો, અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટર વગેરેથી લગભગ ૧૫૫૫૦ પાઉન્ડ એકત્ર કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. જેમાં ચેરિટીના જનરલ ફંડ મારફત બીજા

૧૦૦૦ પાઉન્ડ ઉમેરી ૧૬૫૦૦ ની રકમ આપણે જે ગાઝાની ચેરિટી પેલેસ્ટાઈન વેલ્ફેર હાઉસ સાથે કામ કરી રહ્યા છે તેમને મોકલવામાં આવી હતી. તેમણે આ રકમમાંથી વિન્ટર માટેની જરૂરી સાધન સામગ્રી ખરીદી જરૂરતમંદોમાં વિતરણ કર્યું હતું. જેના ફોટાઓ અને વિડિયો સોશયલ મીડિયા ઉપર મૂકવામાં આવ્યા હતા.

આપ સૌના સહકારથી ગાઝાના મઝલુમોને જે મદદ પૂરી પાડવામાં આવે છે તેનો સહી જગ્યાએ ઉપયોગ થાય છે અને આપણને દુવાઓ પણ મળે છે. સોસાયટી આ પ્રોજેક્ટમાં મદદ કરનારા તમામ સભ્યો અને એરિયા મસ્જિદના કાર્યકર્તાઓનો ખૂબ ખૂબ આભાર માને છે. પરવરદિગાર દરેકની મદદને કબુલ ફરમાવે અને તેનો બદલો બન્ને જહાંનમાં અતા ફરમાવે આમીન.

ગોધરાના રમખાણની વીસમી વર્ષગાંઠ:

૨૦૨૨નું વર્ષ કેટલીક જયંતીઓ.(વર્ષગાંઠો)નું વર્ષ છે જેમાં ભારતની આઝાદીના ૭૫ વર્ષ, આઝાદીની લડતમાં અસહકારની ચળવળમાં ગાંધીજીની ધરપકડના ૧૦૦ વર્ષ વગેરેનો સમાવેશ છે. પરંતુ ગુજરાતમાં બનેલ એક એવી પણ ઘટના છે જેમાં ૨૦૦૨ના ફેબ્રુઆરીમાં ગોધરાકાંડનો પણ સમાવેશ છે. જેમાં સીસ્ટમેટીક રીતે મુસલમાનોને મોતના ઘાટ ઉતારવામાં આવ્યા હતા અને તેમની માલ મિલકતોને કરોડો રૂપિયાનું નુકસાન થયું હતું. ૨૭મી ફેબ્રુઆરીના બનેલ આ ઘટનાને ૨૦વર્ષ થઈ રહ્યા છે. જેમાં બાટલીના ત્રણ ભાઈઓ સઈદ દાઉદ, શકીલ દાઉદ અને મહંમદ અસ્વાત અને તેમની ગાડીનો ડ્રાયવર જે ભારતનો વતની હતો મહંમદ પેરાગરને મોતનો સામનો કરવો પડ્યો હતો. સદભાગ્યે તેમનો ભત્રીજો ઈમરાન જે ખૂબજ નવયુવાન હતો તે બચી જવા પામ્યો હતો. જે હજુ સુધી તેની નજર સમક્ષ બનેલ આ ક્રૂણ ઘટનાને ભૂલી શક્યો નથી.

મરનારની ફેમિલીઓએ પુરાવા એકત્ર કરવા અનેક વખત ભારતની મુલાકાત કરી હતી અને તેમના વતી કોર્ટમાં કેસ દાખલ કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો. પરંતુ આજ દિન સુધી તેમને ન્યાય મળ્યો નથી કે સરકારે માફી માંગી નથી. આ ઘટના માટે નરેન્દ્ર મોદી જેઓ હાલમાં ભારતના વડા પ્રધાન છે અને તે વખતે ગુજરાતના મુખ્ય પ્રધાન હતા તેમણે મુસલમાનો ઉપર થઈ રહેલા હુમલાને પ્રોત્સાહન આપ્યું હતું. આ હુમલામાં તે વખતના સાંસદ એહસાન જાફરી અને કેટલાક બીજા તેમના સાથીઓ ઉપર હુમલો કરી મારી નાંખવામાં આવ્યા હતા. ૨૦વર્ષથી તેમની વિધવા ઝકિયા જાફરી અનેક કોર્ટમાં લડત આપી રહ્યા છે અને આજે હવે તે વયોવૃદ્ધ અવસ્થામાં છે. છતાં તેને ન્યાય મળ્યો નથી અને ગુનેહગારોને સજા અપાવવામાં સરકાર કે કોર્ટ નિષ્ફળ રહી છે. આ ઘટનામાં અનેક સ્થળોએ મુસલમાનોની કત્લેઆમ થઈ હતી અને તે માટે વિવિધ કેસ દાખલ થયા હતા. કેટલાક આરોપીઓની ધરપકડ થઈ હતી પરંતુ પાછળથી તેમને છોડી મૂકવામાં આવ્યા હતા. જો કે એક કેસમાં આરોપી વિધાન સભ્ય માયા કોડવાણી અને અન્યને સજા ફટકારાઈ હતી પરંતુ પાછળથી તેમને પણ જામીન ઉપર છોડવામાં આવ્યા હતા.

متحدہ عرب امارات کا حوثی باغیوں کے دو سیلنگ میزائل اور یمن میں میزائل لانچر تباہ کرنے کا دعویٰ، سعودی عرب میں حملے میں دوزخی

متحدہ عرب امارات نے کہا ہے کہ یمن کے حوثی باغیوں کی جانب سے اس کی سر زمین کی جانب دانغے گئے دو سیلنگ میزائلوں کو تباہ کر دیا گیا ہے اور جو ابی کارروائی کرتے ہوئے یمن میں اس مقام کو بھی نشانہ بنایا گیا ہے جہاں سے یہ میزائل چلائے گئے تھے۔ حوثی باغیوں کی جانب سے متحدہ عرب امارات پر میزائل داغنے کا واقعہ پیر کی صبح پیش آیا تھا جس کے بعد اماراتی وزارتِ دفاع نے پہلے ایک بیان میں انھیں تباہ کرنے کا اعلان کیا اور پھر ٹوئٹر پر ایک پیغام میں یہ دعویٰ بھی کیا کہ یمن کے الجوف نامی صوبے میں نصب سیلنگ میزائل لانچر حملے کے فوراً بعد کارروائی کرتے ہوئے تباہ کر دیا گیا۔ وزارتِ دفاع کے مطابق اس کارروائی میں ایک ایف سولہ جنگی طیارے نے حصہ لیا۔ وزارت کی جانب سے اس حملے کی فوج بھی جاری کی گئی ہے۔ متحدہ عرب امارت حوثی باغیوں کے خلاف جنگ کے لیے سعودی سربراہی میں قائم عسکری اتحاد کا حصہ ہے اور یہ چند دن کے دوران دوسرا واقعہ ہے جب حوثی باغیوں نے امارات کو نشانہ بنانے کی کوشش کی ہے۔ ان تازہ میزائلوں کا ہدف بھی ابوظہبی کی ریاست ہی تھی جہاں کی بندرگاہ پر 17 جنوری کو ہونے والے ڈرون حملوں میں ایک پاکستانی سمیت تین افراد ہلاک ہوئے تھے۔ اس حملے کے بعد حوثی باغیوں کے ترجمان کی جانب سے تنبیہ کی گئی تھی کہ مستقبل میں متحدہ عرب امارات پر مزید حملے کیے جا سکتے ہیں۔ ادھر سعودی سربراہی میں قائم فوجی اتحاد نے کہا ہے کہ اتوار کو جنوبی سعودی عرب میں بھی حوثی باغیوں کے میزائل حملے سے ایک سو ڈائی اور دوسرا بنگالی شہری زخمی ہوئے ہیں۔ خبر رساں ادارے رومٹرز کے مطابق حوثی باغیوں کے ترجمان نے دونوں ملکوں میں تازہ حملوں کی ذمہ داری قبول کی ہے تاہم انھوں نے اس کی مزید تفصیلات جاری نہیں کیں۔ واضح رہے کہ گذشتہ چھ برسوں سے سعودی سربراہی میں قائم عسکری اتحاد یمن میں حوثی باغیوں سے سربریکار ہے۔

یوکرین، روس تنازع: ممکنہ روسی حملے کے پیش نظر امریکہ اور

برطانیہ کا یوکرین سے اپنے سفارتی عملے کا انخلا

روس اور یوکرین کے درمیان بڑھتی کشیدگی کے دوران برطانیہ نے یوکرین میں واقع اپنے سفارت خانے میں تعینات عملے کی برطانیہ واپسی کے عمل کا آغاز کر دیا ہے۔ حکام نے کہا ہے کہ برطانوی سفارتکاروں کو کوئی خاص خطرہ نہیں ہے تاہم تقریباً نصف سفارتی عملے کو واپس برطانیہ بلا لیا جائے گا۔ یہ پیش رفت اس وقت سامنے آئی ہے جب امریکہ نے یوکرین میں تعینات اپنے سفارتی عملے کے خاندانوں کو فوری طور پر یہ کہتے ہوئے یوکرین چھوڑنے کا حکم دیا تھا کہ امریکی حکومت 'ہنگامی صورتحال میں امریکی شہریوں کے انخلا کی حالت میں نہیں ہوگی' امریکہ کی جانب سے جاری اس بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ روس کی جانب سے یوکرین

کے خلاف بڑی فوجی کارروائی کی منصوبہ بندی کی اطلاعات موجود ہیں جبکہ دوسری جانب روس نے ان دعوؤں کی تردید کی ہے کہ وہ یوکرین پر حملہ یا مداخلت کا منصوبہ بنا رہا ہے۔ امریکی دفتر خارجہ نے اپنے شہریوں کو متنسب کیا ہے کہ یوکرین یاروس کا سفر نہ کریں کیونکہ وہاں 'کشیدگی' ہے اور 'امریکی شہریوں کو ہراساں کیے جانے کا امکان' ہے۔ دفتر خارجہ کے بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ 'ایسی اطلاعات سامنے آئی ہیں کہ روس یوکرین کے خلاف بڑی فوجی کارروائی کا منصوبہ بنا رہا ہے' دفتر خارجہ کے ایک اہلکار نے خبر رساں ادارے اے ایف پی کو بتایا ہے کہ فی الحال یوکرین میں امریکہ کا سفارتخانہ کھلا ہے لیکن 'وائٹ ہاؤس سے مسلسل تنبیہ کی جارہی ہے کہ کسی بھی وقت حملہ ہو سکتا ہے' انھوں نے بتایا ہے کہ حکومت 'ایسی ہنگامی صورتحال میں امریکی شہریوں کے انخلا کی حالت میں نہیں ہوگی'۔

سابق وزیر نصرت غنی: مجھے مسلمان ہونے کی وجہ سے نوکری سے نکالا گیا

برطانیہ میں ایک سابقہ مسلمان رکن پارلیمنٹ کا کہنا ہے کہ ان کے مذہب کا معاملہ ایک حکومتی وہپ کے ذریعے اٹھایا گیا تھا جس کی وجہ سے انھیں سنہ 2020 میں وزیر کے عہدے سے برطرف کر دیا گیا۔ سنڈے ٹائمز کے مطابق، ٹوری پارٹی سے تعلق رکھنے والی نصرت غنی کا کہنا ہے کہ جب انھوں نے وضاحت طلب کی تو کہا گیا کہ ان کے مسلمان ہونے کو ایک مسئلے کے طور پر اٹھایا گیا ہے۔ کنزرویٹو پارٹی کے چیف وہپ مارک سپینسر کا کہنا ہے غنی ان کی جانب اشارہ کر رہی ہیں۔ انھوں نے مزید کہا کہ نصرت غنی کے دعوے مکمل طور پر جھوٹے ہیں اور وہ انھیں ہتک آمیز سمجھتے ہیں۔ کابینہ کے وزیر ندیم زاہدی نے کہا ہے کہ اس الزام کی تحقیقات ہونی چاہیے۔ نصرت غنی حکومت میں وزیر بننے والی پہلی مسلم خاتون تھی۔ انھیں محکمہ ٹرانسپورٹ کے ایک عہدے پر تعینات کیا گیا تھا۔ فروری 2020 میں وزیر اعظم بورس جانسن کی حکومت میں ہونے والی ایک معمولی سی ردوبدل میں وہ اس نوکری سے محروم ہو گئیں۔ سنڈے ٹائمز کے مطابق غنی کا کہنا ہے کہ جب انھوں نے وضاحت طلب کی تو ایک حکومتی وہپ نے کہا کہ اس معمولی سی ردوبدل کے بارے میں ہونے والی بات چیت کے دوران ان کے 'مسلمان ہونے کو ایک مسئلے کے طور پر اٹھایا گیا' اور کہا گیا کہ 'ایک مسلمان خاتون'۔۔۔ ساتھ ساتھ کام کرنے والوں کی بے چینی کا سبب بن رہی ہے۔ ایم پی ویلڈن ایم پی کے حوالے سے کہا گیا ہے کہ انھوں نے اس معاملے کے متعلق پوچھ کچھ چھوڑ دی جب انھیں بتایا گیا کہ اگر وہ اس بارے میں بار بار پوچھتی رہیں تو انھیں گروپ سے الگ کر دیا جائے گا اور ان کے کیریئر کے ساتھ ساتھ سماج بھی تباہ ہو جائے گی۔ نصرت غنی نے جس شخص کے بارے میں دعوے کیے تھے، سنچر کی رات، سپینسر نے اپنی شناخت مذکورہ شخص کے طور پر کروائی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ انھوں نے کبھی ایسے الفاظ استعمال نہیں کیے اور یہ الزامات 'مکمل طور پر جھوٹے اور ہتک آمیز' ہیں۔ سپینسر نے اس صورتحال کو 'ناپوس کن' قرار دیا اور کہا کہ اس وقت نصرت نے اس معاملے کو باقاعدہ تحقیقات کے لیے کنزرویٹو پارٹی کو بھیجنے سے انکار کر دیا تھا۔

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