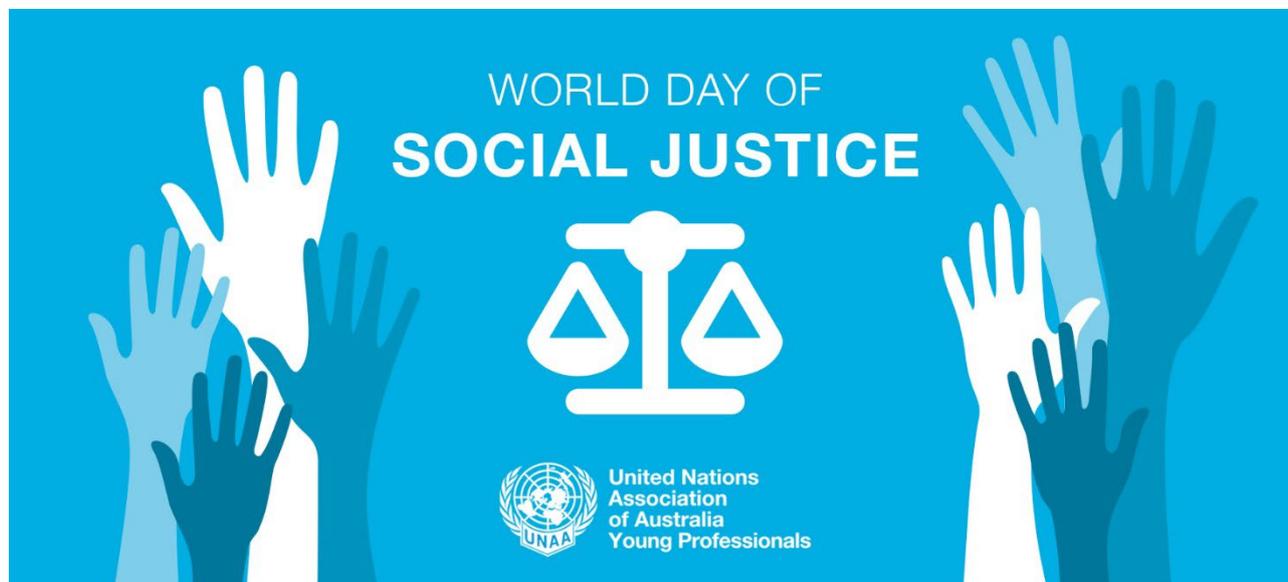


THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY IS

## WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Welcome to the first monthly edition of the Victorian United Nations Young Professionals Blog!



This month, we are shining a spotlight on social justice.

Each year, February 20th marks World Day of Social Justice, which was adopted on the 26th of November 2007.

World Day of Social Justice is a day when we are again reminded of the need to build fairer and more equitable societies.

### What is social justice?

The pillars of social justice are many and are based on the fundamental rights such as but not limited to: equality, diversity, freedom from prejudices, access to healthcare and education, access to clean water, gender equality, eradication of poverty, and having fair working conditions. These are also called universal human rights. When these pillars are withheld, it is social injustice.

Unfortunately, despite having these fundamental rights as a human being, it does not mean one has the access to these. For example, education is a human right but children living in poverty miles away from the nearest school lack access. The reality is actually very different to the theoretical belief that each and every person has these rights.

There is no doubt that the outbreak of Covid-19 exacerbated disadvantage and further highlighted the world's inequalities. We were shown that not everyone has equal rights to health and receiving medical attention. Countries were not equal in the receiving of important resources or having the financial means to attain them.

The pandemic also demonstrated the need for technological access. Society changed for many people regarding how the internet was needed for things such as work and educational purposes. However, it is clear that not everyone has the financial means for a computer let alone the internet;

such items would place a family under enormous constraints, that would then again impact other aspects of their ability to live day to day.

## Why is social justice important?

Social justice truly is at the center of what The United Nations stands for. Each person deserves the right to feel safe from conflict, and the right to fairness in the justice system. Social justice assists The United Nations advocate towards international peace and security.

There are countless social issues like homelessness, unequal pay, rights of First Nations' people, working conditions, unemployment, access to clean water, healthcare, and safe housing.

We are committed to the idea of justice, human rights, and global security for all.

The world is seeing a great widening of the wealth gap, increased social instability, and conflict.

These social issues are not going away. They are always important and continue to be increasingly so as time goes on.

Overall, social injustice further threatens advancements that countries and societies are making towards making a more just world.

Every child has the right to education but every child should also have the appropriate resources to receive it. There needs to be an equal distribution of resources as much as we can.

Living in a world where human rights are respected makes it a better place to be. Social justice is an underlying principle for the peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations.

We need to promote the ideals of social justice each and every day. We cannot do it alone. We need to work together to reach a common goal.

## What can we do in our own daily lives to strive towards a world that is fairer for all?

There are some things that we hope you can take away from reading this blog today and also be able to ask yourselves:

- What does social justice mean to you?
- Are you donating time or money towards our combined effort to attain social justice?
- If not, what are you passionate about? What do you think you could contribute? Is it time to do some research about how you can get involved?