

CCSJ calls on citizens to work to build a just country/world

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PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday, February 20, the world will observe World Day of Social Justice. CCSJ calls on all citizens to use this day to reflect on the causes of injustice in T&T/the world, and to commit to promote justice for all. This requires us, inter alia, to step up our efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, social exclusion, equity, and equality.

The UN rightly states that “Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations...We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.”

Our Scriptures are replete with examples of the need for us to build God’s Kingdom of Justice, peace, truth, love and freedom. For example, in Micah 6:8 we read: *“This is what the Lord asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with God.”* The Synod of Bishops 1971 document, Justice in the World, states: “Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel.”

We are living in a time when social ills such as moral relativism, individualism, greed, social exclusion and economic injustice threaten our society/world and stand as obstacles to building the common good. Raise your awareness of the Church’s Social Doctrine, which, as Pope Francis says: “helps build economic justice, equality and inclusion”.

He warns us about the globalisation of indifference, saying: “No-one can remain insensitive to the inequalities that persist in the world! Everybody, according to his or her particular opportunities and responsibilities, should be able to make a personal contribution to putting an end to so many social injustices.” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI’s words are also noteworthy. He said we “cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice”.

The words of the Vatican II document, *Gaudium et Spes* is a call for us to act: “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts.”

Let us pledge to make every day a Social Justice Day. There is no quick fix; but if we stand together in solidarity with those who suffer daily from human rights violations, we can find solutions to the many injustices that disfigure our country/world. Together we can build a world in which justice for all will become a reality and not just a forlorn dream.