



The

Sacred

Standard

"Confident in God's
love for us"

This term at the Sacred Standard we wanted to reflect on the topic of injustice.

As you know, injustice is global and ever evolving and it goes without saying that it is our job to remain abreast of what's happening in the world, ultimately with the view of making a difference. Even the smallest change can have the biggest impact.

What change will you be a part of driving?

Have a think as you enjoy this edition.

Love,

Sacred Standard Team X

Injustices Globally



In April 1983, wearing the hijab became obligatory for all Iranian women. Since then, all women legally must wear the hijab in public, even non-muslims and those visiting Iran.

However, in more recent years, after the brutal death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, arrested for allegedly not observing Iran's Islamic code, many others have expressed the belief that wearing the hijab should not be mandatory in Iran.

Protestors say that Mahsa Amini's death must lead to modification of the hijab law and that women in the country should be able to make their own choice. Iranian women dress differently across the different parts of the country and according to various cultures, social backgrounds, political views and religious beliefs. But their attire is relatively the same.

It affects every aspect of everyday life in Iran. For example, women are not allowed to appear without a hijab on TV or in movies.

During the last few decades, Iranian women's groups have fought to change this law. Through doing so, they put themselves at risk of severe punishment from imprisonment to hefty fines.

Women's efforts to negotiate their rights have been brave and admirable. Their quest for justice, gender equality and freedom of choice has been shown through the "women, life, freedom" slogan, which they are being recognised for.

Personally, I believe that being in the 21st Century women should be able to

make their own decisions and should not be oppressed for doing so.

By Kenechi Ezeajughi 10E



Gender Inequality: Is the gender pay gap fair or unfair?

Despite many believing that it is indeed unfair for there to be a pay gap between men and women, some ponder the question of whether it is justifiable and fair.

There is often inequality between genders, and one example of this is the gender pay gap. The gender pay gap is a long-standing occurrence in which the average salary between men and women with the same occupations is vastly different. Speaking generally, women are paid less.

Some people believe that the gender pay gap is unfair. There is factual evidence to imply that a woman's career is affected by her potentially becoming a mother. Mothers are much more likely to move to part-time employment once they have a child,

and those who do return to work with a lower chance of getting a promotion.

Another fact that contributes to why women are often paid less than men is due to conscious and unconscious discrimination and bias in hiring and pay decisions. On average, women are 30% less likely to be called for a job interview than men with the same attributes. This is shown by a study completed by the La Caixa Social Observatory. The statistics also indicate that candidates with lower qualifications encounter higher gender bias than those who have knowledge of an additional language and more work experience.



The disparity between men and women increases for women, who are at further detriment because of factors such as religion, race, location, age, sexual orientation, ableism, and many more.

Many believe that the types of occupations and career paths that men and women undertake are influenced by personal preference and, therefore, their level of pay. To exemplify, women

dominate jobs that pay less, such as health care assistants and domestic personal workers, which pay a salary of roughly £20,000, whereas men do jobs such as vehicle technicians and mechanics, which pay £40,000. Some also argue that women and men work different hours. According to a survey done in the U.S., men work more hours and overtime than women. Men spend an average of 41.0 hours per week at their jobs, while women work an average of 36.3 hours per week. So perhaps this argument validates that the gender pay gap between men and women is fair.



How can we stop the gender pay gap from happening?

1. Mind the gap—don't ignore it—by identifying when there is a gender gap and increasing awareness.
2. Including more women in lists for recruitment and promotions

3. Use skill-based assessment tasks in recruitment and structured interviews for employment and promotions.
4. Reassessing promotions, bonuses, and benefits
5. Encourage remote working.
6. Invest in female leadership potential by giving more women opportunities for higher roles.
7. Increase female salaries so that they are equal to the salaries of men.
8. Encourage men to take parental leave, similarly to women, and offer help with childcare to ensure that women are not disadvantaged when juggling motherhood with their career.

By Mya-Lee Holder 9R

Every Little Helps

This year, Christmas fell at a time of hardship that has not been seen since before the Second World War. Inflation is soaring, meaning the cost of essentials from food to fuel is beyond the reach of many families.

With social inequality rising as a result across all corners of the UK, more people are mobilising – from armies of volunteers working hard at food banks to big companies playing their part in trying to make change as well as drawing attention to serious issues.

When big retailers began releasing their Christmas adverts, one in

particular stood out: John Lewis' 'The Beginner.' It portrays a family preparing to welcome a young foster girl, and within two days of its release, had hit 2 million views on YouTube alone.



Why is this significant?

The advertisement highlights how the number of children in care has risen by a third in a decade to about 108,000. John Lewis promised to offer its support, including by giving those who experience the foster care system a chance at an apprenticeship in the company. It is stepping in to help the vulnerable at a time when key state services have been worn down.



The person behind this effort is chairman Sharon White, who has been campaigning for social equality for most of her 30-year career and this year topped the list of the most

influential Black Britons. As the first woman and Black person to lead the media regulator Ofcom, she fought for more diverse representation in the media. Now, under her watch, John Lewis has made an increased effort to be more socially responsible, including by being the first company to give a cost-of-living crisis payment to its workers and offering them free meals over the winter.

So, although many of us may feel hopeless and unable to make a real impact during this difficult time, actions as small as thinking about where we spend our money can in fact make all the difference.

By Lavinia Massa 11T

Qatar's World Cup of Shame

The World Cup. Everybody watched it, the nation gathered around every television across the country, staring at the TV in anticipation to see if England would finally bring it home.

Yet, this year it was different, football wasn't at all at the forefront of the country's mind. Instead, it was the wonder of how so many stadiums were built in such a short period of time, why people of different sexualities could not express themselves in the host nation, or why it was illegal to drink or wear shorts in public. But most importantly, how and why the World Cup, a celebration of diversity, was allowed to take place in Qatar, a country where many cannot be who they truly are.



Exploitation and abuse.

They are just two of the main injustices that Nepalese and Indian migrants have had to experience during the gruelling labour they undertook whilst building 7 stadiums in 10 years, in the process killing an average of 12 migrant workers a week. They can't change jobs, they can't leave the country and they often wait months to get paid.



How has this happened?

Qatar's immense bid back in 2010 to host the current World Cup meant the board of FIFA's eyes were moved from the country's political problems to its astounding economic opportunities. This is an outrage, a disastrous decision from FIFA disregarding the basic human rights of millions of people.

Captivity. Restriction.

All homosexual people wanting to enjoy the World Cup for football face this ridiculous treatment. Of course, religious beliefs should be respected however in a world where homosexuality is not a choice, it is far from fair to criminalise an attribute which makes a person who they are.

Qatar's president goes so far as to describe homosexuality as 'damage in the mind' and consequences of showing public displays of affection included 'six cases of severe and repeated beatings' just last month. This just isn't acceptable in the 21st century, especially in a tournament that encourages nations to set aside their differences and allow football to bring them together. It is sheer hypocrisy.

Misery. Tribulation.

The joy and excitement of a World Cup was sucked out of all fans as Qatar implements rules against public consumption of alcohol as well as disapproval of shorts and sleeveless shirts. These rules take away from the enjoyment of the sport. In a country that reaches highs of 24.1 degrees in the month of December, people could not wear shorts! Of course, drinking does not lead to immediate happiness when watching football but it is stereotypically a part of being a football fan. However in this world cup it was forbidden. Just another factor leading

to this World Cup being a complete and utter calamity.

Qatar World Cup 2022. Certainly, one to forget as FIFA are blinded by financial gains from a country which lacks basic human rights.

By Emmeline Gonzalez-Proctor 11T

Pupil voice

Whilst it is easy to explore global examples of injustice, it is far harder to unpack those that are close to home.

In this issue, I wanted to connect with our school community by finding out what issues are of current concern to our fellow pupils and what solutions, if any, we can offer each other.

Please note that any issues that are listed here are pupils' personal beliefs but will remain anonymous.

This article is merely the start of an on-going conversation.

Uniform Equality

“The whole point of uniform policies is that everyone is equal but walking around the school, there are particular students who walk around with their coats, trainers, multi-coloured hair, really obnoxious and loud jewellery and Airpods in.” Anonymous pupil

My Advice: I understand that it can be hard to do the right thing when many people around you are breaking rules

and doing the wrong things. However, it is important that you try to follow the school's rules no matter how hard it may be. Ultimately rules are there to create a school culture and positive environment.

Hair colour

“Hair colour is a hot topic amongst pupils of the school. They argue that the school should be more lenient and allow students to express themselves. Although certain demographics feel that they're multicoloured extensions are targeted more than those with straight hair. Treat everyone equally - or don't bother anyone at all.”

Anonymous pupil

My Advice: Follow the school's rules as much as you can, however do not try to be something you are not. Don't lose who you are because of fear of being judged.

Right to an opinion/ accepting you are wrong

“Some students feel as though they can't talk to teachers and (not necessarily argue) but debate with they're teachers. Some Teachers always think they're right, and even when they are completely wrong a student is expected to treat them with a certain level of respect. Even though, - If the student is wrong, they would most likely be shouted at.

This completely conflicts with role models that are taught in school such as Malala Yousafzai who spoke out against the Taliban after they took away the right for women to go to school". Anonymous pupil

My Advice: I feel like perspective is key here- what you may see as right may be wrong to someone else. That does not mean that anyone's opinion is more relevant than the other. Having debates and questioning things broadens our knowledge as a whole, on the other hand it can cause problems if debate spills into disrespect. Try to be mindful of boundaries, everyone has different views/ opinions on everything, so we should all be open to listening and understanding the opinions of our peers and teachers.

Thank you for reading my article. I hope that if any of the issues above do relate to you this advice has helped you.

By Kaoosy Ejiofor 11S

Review: Tan France: Beauty and the Bleach



What is colourism you might ask?

Colourism: the practice of favouring lighter skin over darker skin.

In this raw and emotional Netflix show Tan France (British-American fashion designer) delves into his struggle with colourism. Specifically, he shares the pressure he felt to bleach his skin when growing up in Doncaster, England.

What is really interesting is we learn he first stole bleaching cream from his cousin, proving that he wasn't the only family member who felt this pressure.

He makes it clear that the pressure to lighten his skin was not only a consequence of his upbringing (born into an Indian family who favoured lighter skin he was known as "the darker one") but also the racism he experienced growing up in Doncaster, a predominantly white area.

Whilst he tried to give bleaching up, it wasn't long before he felt the pull to do

this again.

In a harsh but powerful line he explains the desire to bleach was “self-preservation.” It is no wonder this is the case. In a moving scene he describes being chased by racists at the age of 5. Imagine.

Rehearsing this event as a grown man it is evident his pain has not yet subsided, so much so that he has been unable to visit his hometown since moving to the USA. It is also unfortunate that he hasn't been able to fully escape colourism, since the fashion industry he works in favours lighter-skinned people.

Take a look at high end magazines and adverts if you don't believe him.

Whilst the documentary follows Tan's journey it also includes others such as singer *Kelly Rowland* and actress **Bunmi Adjeku** who played Mercy in *EastEnders*. Both women recount their own experiences with colourism. Adjeku for example shares the online abuse she faced, including a comparison to a monkey. What's more frustrating is she highlights much of this abuse was from other black people.

Similarly, Rowland notes the grandma of a boy she once dated claimed she was “too dark” so she could no longer continue her relationship with him.



The crux of this show is that colourism is so hard to tackle because it has invaded families, friendship circles and entertainment industries. How can this cycle be stopped when this century old narrative continues to be dished out on a platter?

Education and empowering the youth is one answer that the show provides. A highlight of this being the work that France does at a local school.

For anyone who is interested in learning more about this issue I would definitely recommend watching this.

By Miss Woldu



By Phinaba Fornah 11S

Injustice of Race- The beauty of seeing?

I never thought that a person could
judge me, with just a single glance,
But I was wrong because that glance
showed so much:
My past, my present, and future.

That glance told people my passions
and hopes,

That glance contained my entire life
story.

What they saw in that glance was my
skin
And whether I had dark hands or small
slanted eyes
It would tell them that I was different, I
was unlike them.

I just hope that next time they see me -
they stare
They take a good look at me,
Get to know me, listen to my thoughts
Get to see the real depths in me.

Because a single glance is not enough.

By Rebecca Irabor 9A



ARTICLE MADE BY 9R

DO YOU KNOW

THE SYMPTOMS OF CERVICAL CANCER?



What is cervical cancer?

Cervical cancer is cancer that is found anywhere in the cervix, which is the opening between the vagina and the womb. Long-lasting infection with certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV) is the main cause of cervical cancer, which is passed from one person to another through intercourse.

What are the symptoms?



Vaginal bleeding that is unusual for you



Changes to vaginal discharge



Unexplained pain in your lower back or pelvis



Pain or discomfort during sex

How can we prevent it?

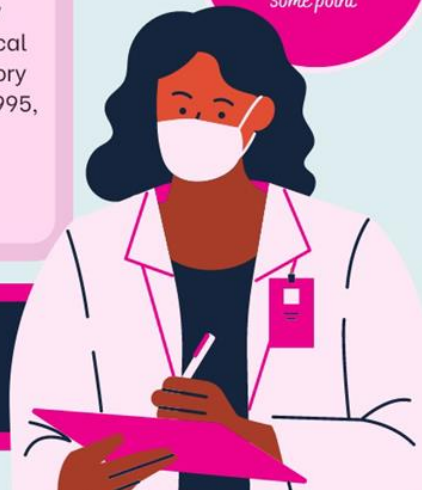
Cervical screening (which is the process of detecting and removing abnormal tissue/cells in the cervix before cervical cancer develops) and the HPV vaccination are the best way to prevent cervical cancer. Lifestyle changes can also lower your chances of getting it. For example, women who smoke are about twice times as likely to develop cervical cancer.



8 IN 10
people will get HPV at some point

What is Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust?

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust is the UK's leading cervical cancer charity; it is the UK's only charity dedicated to those affected by cervical cancer and cervical abnormalities. They campaign for ending cervical cancer by improving uptake of HPV vaccination and cervical screening. The charity was initiated by a London businessman, James Maxwell, in memory of his wife, who died from cervical cancer at the age of 40. Following her diagnosis, in 1995, Jo had difficulty finding good information about every aspect of cervical cancer. Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust offer a range of online and face to face support and information through online forums, local support groups and expert services.



0808 802 8000

info@jostrust.org.uk