

BHAVAN CARES

Call: 1300 BHAVAN (1300 24 28 26)

Social Justice

When we speak about social justice we go to the heart of what the **Bhavan Cares** stands for.

We follow the **Gandhian values**:

"I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."

(One of the last notes left behind by Gandhi in 1948, expressing his deepest social thought. *Source: Mahatma Gandhi [Last Phase, Vol. II (1958), P. 65].*

And the teachings of the **Scriptures**:

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
protect the rights of those who are helpless.*

*Speak out and pronounce a sentence of justice,
defend the cause of the wretched and the poor."*

(Proverbs 31:8-9)

In assisting people who are denied equality and dignity we will make an emphatic statement about the dignity and equality of all people in God's sight.

In asking the simple question about the causes of injustice we issue an empathic call to all people of good will to work creatively to build equality and justice into our society.

Especially through our national and state councils we give voice to those who are voiceless, standing with them and advocating for them.

As Bhavanites we do not close our eyes to the growing division in Australia and the world between the increasingly prosperous and the increasingly poor.

The accumulation of wealth on the one hand is connected with the accumulation of poverty on the other, characterized by race, gender, age, disability, mental and physical illness, forced migration, homelessness, unemployment, insecure and poorly paid work and declining levels of social security and public infrastructure.

According to Mahatma Gandhi fortunate people who have amassed wealth are trustees of the wealth in their possession which they must utilise for the benefit of the underprivileged people. The practice codes of the various religious scriptures also encourage keeping aside a proportion of one's income for charitable causes. -Gambhir Watts, President, Bhavan Cares