

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCER: A LETTER SONG TO HUMANITY

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“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable.... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” Martin Luther King Jr. (2010)

According to Ministry of Education in Manitoba, Canada (n.d.): Social justice is a virtue or societal value that guides human interaction and, in particular, the fair distribution of society’s benefits, advantages, and assets, not just by law and in the courts but in all aspects of society. Social justice is about securing rights but also about our responsibilities and their consequences. It focuses our attention on the relative position of different members of our society and on examining the disparities that might exist, the root causes of these disparities, and the opportunities for eliminating them. Understanding disparities requires us to adopt a systemic analysis of our social context—the institutions (e.g., legal, education, media), infrastructures, and belief systems that shape this distribution. Social justice is linked to the concept of equity and the just treatment of individuals in their own social context to meet their needs and reach their potential. It is also linked to the notion of equality as a socially just society is a “society for all” that provides an equal basis of opportunity. Fundamentally, it asks us to pose the question: “Is society just?”

The British Columbia Ministry of Education defines social justice as “the full participation and inclusion of all people in society, together with the promotion and protection of their legal, civil and human rights. The aim of social justice—to achieve a just and equitable society where all share in the prosperity of that just society—is pursued by individuals and groups through collaborative social action.” (BCTF, 2014, p. 1)

Social justice is a broadly held value and is seen as an important goal of social progress. Canada as a society has adopted national and global commitments to social justice, including ratifying the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Canadians have accepted a vision of social justice that supports the principle that all peoples, without discrimination, have the right to live in dignity and freedom and to enjoy the fruits of social progress and should, on their part, contribute to it. (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1969)

Social justice is linked to social action because the advancement of social justice is a socio-political issue. Social action includes all actions taken by individuals or groups to achieve a political or social change, or to support a cause.

Areas such as:

- Action for human rights: ethnicity, race, culture, class, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disabilities, etc.
- Economic disparities, poverty, quality of life
- Access to food, water, health care, education, employment
- Child exploitation, human trafficking, and slave labour
- Labour movement and unions, strikes, non-violent revolution
- Indigenous rights
- Crime and punishment: penal systems and economic implications, ethical treatment of prisoners
- Environmentalism and environmental organizations
- Activism: the power of one, resistance to oppression, civil disobedience, conscientious objectors, boycotts, protests, grassroots movements, local community groups; citizen action groups, social networking and mobilization for change, popular culture, and the arts.

Speaking of popular culture, arts and change, here I refer to one of my international message songs – a project to highlight the UN's World Day of Social Justice and Equality, titled: **To Whom It May Concern.**

The UN World Day of Social Justice and Equality is on February 20th each year, and it is aimed at contributing to the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity, and access to social well-being and justice for all. Participating governments have made a commitment to the creation of a framework for action to promote social justice at national, regional and international levels. They recognize that economic growth should promote equity and social justice and that “a society for all” must be based on social justice and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As mentioned in my critique, perhaps the core issue in almost every society is with the 'equal opportunity'. Some reserve opportunities for themselves, and for their nearest ones, with limited or no regards for others. In many cases, some individuals and societies do not see themselves as part of the fabric for a larger society. Everybody has a dream, dream for a better opportunity, for a better tomorrow. But sadly many believe, facilitating others' to turn their dreams into a reality, may reduce chances for their own dreams to become true. They are prepared to let jealousy, greed, and act of inhumanity take over, and let others' dreams crumble – at the expense of achieving one exclusively for themselves.

My technical approach in writing this message song was similar to the previously shared projects. But this time, I decided to make it sound as if I am writing a heartfelt letter to all the mankind across the globe – hence the title 'To Whom It May Concern'. I tried to voice my concerns metaphorically in form of a 'letter song', deliberately mentioning and reminding listeners of 'human values'. (Dorbayani, 2018)



Shout Radio, Cheshire & the Fylde Coast - North West of UK



Music of Class - MOC Radio, South Florida, USA

This song keeps spinning on various networks. Licenced to stream music with PRS, Shout Radio broadcasts to over **200,000** unique listeners and it is available worldwide from TuneIn. Outside the UK, Shout Radio is popular in France, United States, and Peru – spreading out to over **87,000** locations. MOCRadio is also a recognized name in Florida, with over **7000** unique monthly visitors to its website alone. **From the North West Coast of England, to South Florida, USA – To Whom It May Concern, is a letter song being sent over the radio waves to hundreds of millions across the globe.** For other major radio stations and testimonials, refer to my critique.

Radio clips and commentaries are available from the Portfolio file.



A Recent Metadata Shows: The Song Reached over 700K Streams on SoundCloud Alone

Visualizing A Message Song:

While this message song has a [music video](#) – complimenting my words and melody, which is produced through Cinematography (the art and technology of motion-picture photography), I slightly scratched its audio impact on listeners mind deeper.

When it comes to visualization of a piece of music, one may argue that there is a direct connection or link between creative visuals and those of sounds. That is, perhaps the sound of music could potentially trigger some visual imaginations/visual creativity, and visual imagination maybe able to depict the music on a canvas.

But what about songs (music with lyrics)? How would one imagine and create a visual medium by only listening to a song? Can my message songs also generate or project the same messages visually in people's mind as intended?

Well, with the help of my publisher for this message song, we tried that. A number of Youth artists were invited to listen to my song for a few times, then were asked to draw their impressions from it.

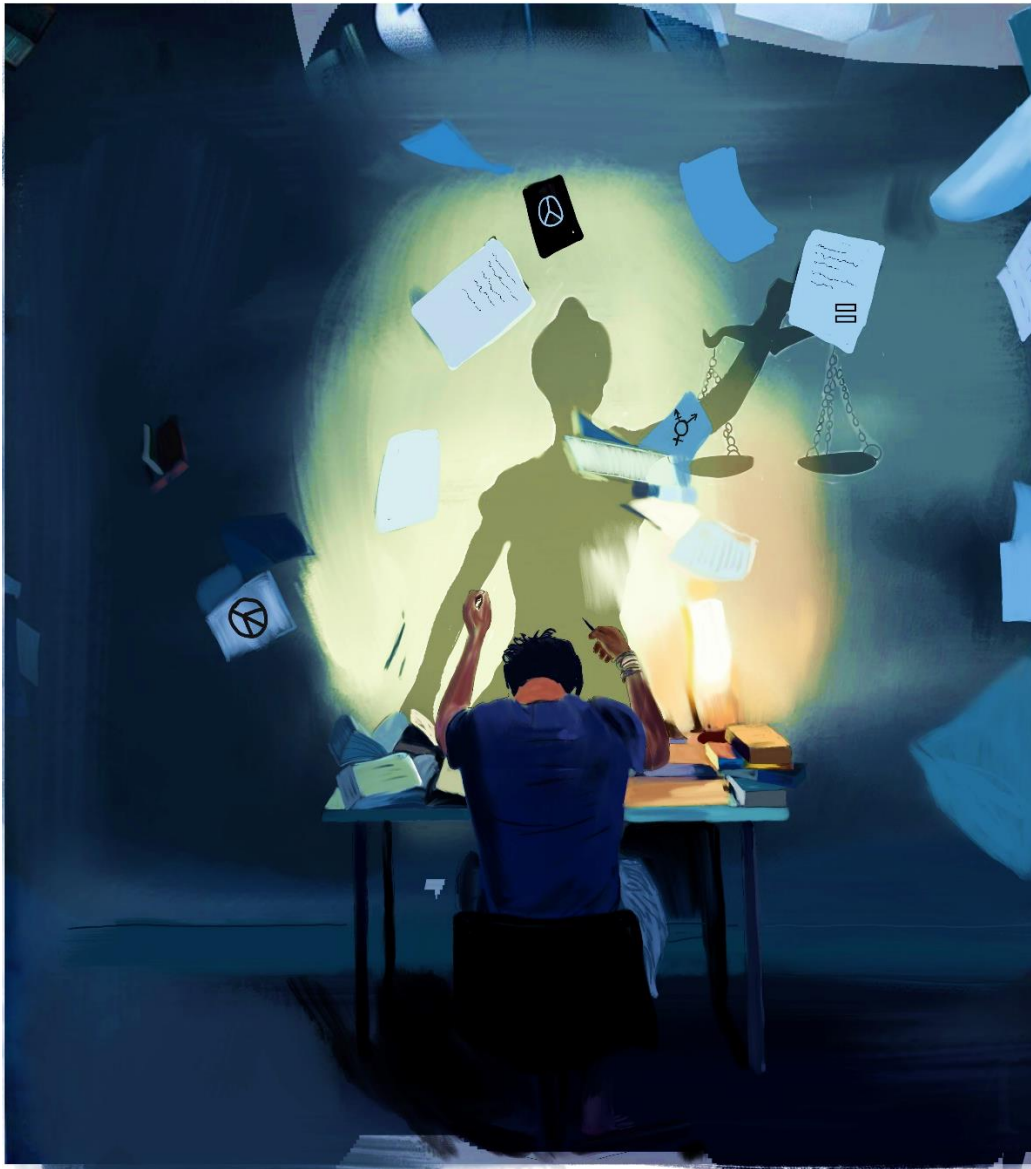
Here are a few impressions from my message song, 'To Whom It May Concern'.

As you can see, interestingly, the visual mediums, depict almost the same underlining message in the audio. (Dorbayani, 2018)



Drawing the song by: Rumi Das
Impression of the artist from listening to the message song -
'To Whom It May Concern'

Courtesy of the Artist, Powell's & WAALM Publications



Drawing the song by: Iqbal Ali
Impression of the artist from listening to the message song -
'To Whom It May Concern'

Courtesy of the Artist, Powell's & WAALM Publications

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- The UN, World Day of Social Justice and Equality www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlJustice/