

LET US ALSO THINK ABOUT PAYING BACK

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U.N. Climate Conference hosted by the U.K. Government during August 2021 provided opportunities to all participants and everyone across the world to learn more about the many changes taking place in the world's climate conditions. It is now common knowledge that the climatic conditions we now have are no longer the types of conditions we had for centuries, conditions we were used to and conditions which provided us with a stable pattern on which we depended on for our agricultural, economic and all other pursuits. Instead of our seasonal rains we now have very heavy down pours, unseasonal rains, droughts, strong winds, storms, hurricanes, mud slides, bush fires which burn for months and rising sea levels which affect low lying countries. The Conference discussed at length the changes affecting all the countries across the globe and unanimously agreed to get all the countries to gradually decrease the use of fossil fuels as the burning of these were the cause of climate change and change over to renewable sources of energy. The Conference also discussed the funding needs to switch over to the new sources of energy. What is of great interest to us Muslims and especially to our Surti Sunni Vohras is that the wealthy or the developed countries

agreed to assist FINANCIALLY the poor or the less developed countries to move towards using renewable sources of energy.

The wealthy countries were not being generous by agreeing to financially support the poor countries but agreeing to provide funds was based on their realisation and acceptance that they were responsible for the damage done to the World's climate. After all the wealthy countries through their manufacturing industries, mining activities, gas and petroleum productions and their excessive use of road, sea and air transport were the main emitters of heat from which all the countries across the world were suffering.

We feel the feeling of guilt which made the wealthy countries to agree to provide financial support to the poorer countries should teach us Surti Sunni Vohras a lesson. Whilst we did not by our actions damage the World's climate conditions but where we had the upper hand did, we behave as expected by our religion when dealing with those who worked for us or those who had to sell their agricultural produce to us or buy their groceries and clothes from our shops. We feel in everything we did or engaged in we did not behave as expected of us by our religion.

Whilst those who addressed the Conference relied on scientific

evidence, as Muslims we feel whilst not discarding what the scientists say must turn towards the ALMIGHTY ALLAH for HIS help. We must not forget that the ALMIGHTY ALLAH knows about the sufferings the climate change is causing and HE is the one we should be asking for to bring back the type of climate that we were used to for so long.

We feel whilst the wealthier countries have admitted that they were the main ones who by their actions driven mainly by their wish to progress economically and have dominance over other countries there is a great and urgent need for us Surti Sunni Vohras to look at our economic activities and the economic activities of our family members past and present. We can pick up many hundreds of stories of dealings which were often not good engaged in by our people from our villages and of our people from the countries they had migrated to. Many of our people when asked about their dealings often go onto mention the donations they give to charities and the Zakaat and food parcels they give to fellow Muslims during the Holy month of Ramzaan. Do the poor Muslims only need money from Zakaat during the month of Ramzaan or do they also need money for the other 11 months of the year? Similarly, the food parcels may help them during the month of Ramzaan but what about the food they

need for the other 11 months of the year. Others mention the masajid, madressas and dar-ul-ulooms they have built. The less well-off Muslims wherever they may live need masajid, madressas and dar-ul-ulooms but they also need regular incomes to live on, offer their prayers at the masajid, send their children to the madressas and dar-ul-ulooms.

We feel all Surti Sunni Vohras and especially those who know about their own as well as their family members' economic activities should help fellow Muslims as well as those who are not Muslims to become self-supporting. We feel our Muslim brothers as well as sisters, wherever they may live are often seen lagging behind the others. Lack of education, lack of work-related training, lack of awareness raising work and lack of financial support and encouragement all play their parts to keep Muslims as well as other less privileged groups from getting respectable and reasonably well-paid work.

Our Vohra's economic progress, we need to accept, did not come about by dealing with or doing business with or employing people from the well-educated or economically well-off classes. Our economic progress can only be traced back to the economically disadvantaged and uneducated people. These are the people we Vohras need to support to allow them to find a foothold in a very fast changing world. ■