

Minutes – The Cambridge Majlis, Michaelmas 2023-24 – TBHT the diaspora has a duty to engage in the development of their home countries & Social at The Tiffin Truck

The second Sunday debate of Michaelmas term kicked off on the 21st of November 2024 - TBHT the diaspora has a duty to engage in the development of their home countries - chaired by Majlis Debates Officer Aman Vernekar.

The proposition - Ayush Jain and Nikhil Dharmaraj - asserted that the term "duty" in this context equated to a legal responsibility. They contended that South Asia's profound historical legacy requires all its offspring to actively contribute to its progress, with such a duty serving as the optimal mechanism for unlocking this potential. They also introduced an economic perspective, highlighting the significance of remittances and exchange rate variances as sources of income and capital crucial for South Asia's development.

In opposition Allaya Rasul and Freddie Sehgal - presented an initial argument centred on the concept of choice. They underscored the challenges faced by South Asians in the UK, asserting that this difficulty supports the idea that the diaspora's children should have the freedom to decide the extent of their engagement with South Asian culture. Additionally, they pointed out that a considerable number of current South Asian migrants in Western nations belong to the elite class in their home countries. This elite status allows them to wield disproportionate influence on institutional decisions, especially through increased campaign financing for local elections.

The floor speeches offered intriguing and nuanced perspectives, covering a spectrum of discussions. Topics included debating the fairness of imposing a suggested duty on individuals relocating to the UK during the Sri Lankan Civil War and the Partition, events that forced their expulsion from their native land. Additionally, there was consideration of an unspoken responsibility on the diaspora's children to engage in conversations and learn about the challenges confronted by their parents' homeland, fostering an environment conducive to the advancement of reconciliation and the peace process.

The vote concluded evenly split, leading to lively informal discussions and a gathering at The Tiffin Truck for further conversation and traditional Indian food.

Sanjay