

**Forum: GA4 - Special Political and Decolonization**

**Issue: Eliminating the social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics**

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**I: Introduction**

Marginalized communities including but not limited to racial and ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities across the globe have been subjected to social and fiscal neglect for centuries and often face systemic barriers that limit their access to basic human rights and resources. This neglect has resulted in unequal access to resources, discrimination, poverty, and exclusion from mainstream society, social discrimination, economic

exclusion, and inadequate public policies that perpetuate poverty and inequality.. Eliminating this neglect is crucial for building a more equitable and just world. This neglect not only violates their basic human rights but also creates an enormous economic burden on society. As such, it is critical to explore ways to eliminate the social and fiscal neglect of marginalized communities, as doing so can improve their quality of life and contribute to a more equitable and prosperous society for all. Therefore addressing the root causes of social and fiscal neglect is essential to creating a more just and equitable society for all.

## **II: Key terms**

### **A: Marginalized demographics:**

Marginalized demographics refer to groups of people who are systematically excluded from full participation in society, often due to their minority status, such as their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, or disability status. These individuals may experience discrimination, prejudice, and unequal access to resources and opportunities, which can lead to social, economic, and political disadvantage. Marginalization can also refer to groups that are not actively excluded, but have been historically marginalized, such as Indigenous peoples, refugees, or immigrants. \*1

### **B. Fiscal Neglect**

Fiscal neglect refers to the systemic failure of governments or other institutions to allocate adequate financial resources to meet the needs of marginalized communities. This can result in a lack of access to essential services and resources, such as healthcare, education,

housing, and employment opportunities, which perpetuates the cycle of poverty and social exclusion. \*2

### **C. Social Neglect**

Social neglect refers to the failure of society to provide adequate support and resources to individuals or groups who are marginalized or disadvantaged. In the context of marginalized demographics, social neglect may manifest as a lack of access to basic needs such as healthcare, education, employment, and housing, as well as exclusion from social and cultural opportunities. This can lead to a cycle of poverty, poor health outcomes, and limited opportunities for social mobility.\*2

### **D. Empowerment**

Empowerment in the context of marginalized demographics refers to the process of giving individuals or groups who have been historically disadvantaged or discriminated against the resources, tools, and support they need to achieve greater control over their lives, make their own decisions, and participate more fully in society. Furthermore Empowerment is a key strategy for promoting social justice and reducing disparities between different groups in society.

\*3

### **E. Equity**

Equity in the context of marginalized demographics refers to the fair and just distribution of resources, opportunities, and outcomes. It involves identifying and addressing the root causes of inequality and taking proactive steps to dismantle barriers and create inclusive and

empowering environments that enable all individuals to thrive and reach their full potential. And It seeks to address systemic barriers and ensure that everyone has an equal chance to thrive and succeed, regardless of their background or identity. \*4

### **III. General Overview**

Marginalized demographics, including low-income individuals, people of color, and those with disabilities, often face social and fiscal neglect. This neglect can lead to a lack of access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, and result in significant disparities in health outcomes, educational attainment, and economic mobility.

#### **A: Healthcare Disparities**

##### **i. Lack of Access to Healthcare Services**

Many marginalized communities face a lack of access to healthcare services due to systemic barriers, including cost, language barriers, and discrimination. This can result in delayed diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, worsening health outcomes, and increased healthcare costs in the long run.

##### **ii. Health Insurance Disparities**

Low-income individuals and people of color are more likely to be uninsured or underinsured, leading to limited access to preventative care and chronic disease management. This can lead to increased healthcare costs, higher rates of hospitalization, and reduced quality of life.

## **B: Educational Disparities**

### i: Access to Quality Education

Marginalized communities often face inadequate access to quality education, including poorly funded schools, underqualified teachers, and lack of access to technology. This can lead to lower educational attainment, reduced earning potential, and increased economic inequality.

### ii : Disproportionate Disciplinary Practices

Students of color and those with disabilities are disproportionately subjected to harsh disciplinary practices, including suspension and expulsion, which can lead to decreased academic achievement and increased involvement with the criminal justice system.

## **C: Economic Disparities**

### i: Income Inequality

Low-income individuals and people of color face significant income inequality, resulting in reduced access to resources and opportunities necessary for economic mobility. This can lead to increased poverty rates and perpetuate intergenerational poverty.

### ii: Workplace Discrimination

Marginalized communities often face discrimination in the workplace, including hiring bias, wage disparities, and limited opportunities for advancement. This can lead to decreased earning potential and increased financial instability.

## **D: Housing Disparities**

### **i. Lack of Affordable Housing**

Low-income individuals and people of color are more likely to face housing insecurity due to a lack of affordable housing options. This can lead to overcrowding, homelessness, and housing instability, which can have negative impacts on physical and mental health, education, and employment opportunities.

### **ii. Housing Discrimination**

Marginalized communities also face discrimination in the housing market, including rental and mortgage lending practices, and zoning laws that disproportionately affect low-income individuals and people of color. This can result in limited housing options, reduced access to resources and opportunities, and increased poverty rates.

## **E. Access to Technology**

### **i. Digital Divide**

Marginalized communities may have limited access to technology, including computers and the internet, leading to reduced access to information, educational resources, and job opportunities. This can lead to further marginalization, reduced learning potential, and decreased quality of life.

### **ii. Technological Discrimination**

People of color and those with disabilities may also face discrimination in the design and implementation of technology, leading to reduced accessibility and usability.

This can limit opportunities for social and economic advancement, exacerbate existing disparities, and perpetuate systemic biases.

To eliminate social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics, systemic changes are necessary, including increasing access to healthcare services, improving the quality of education for marginalized students, and reducing economic inequality. These changes require a commitment to social justice and a willingness to address systemic biases and discrimination in all aspects of society.

#### **IV. Major parties involved**

##### **A. UNDP - United Nations Development Programme**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is one of the major parties involved in addressing social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics. The UNDP is a United Nations agency that works to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty globally. They work with governments, civil society organizations, and other partners to support a range of initiatives aimed at improving social and economic conditions for marginalized populations. Some of the specific ways in which the UNDP works to address social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics include, Supporting initiatives to reduce poverty and improve access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and housing. Promoting economic development and creating jobs in marginalized communities, Supporting efforts to reduce inequality and promote social inclusion, such as programs aimed at empowering women and girls, improving access to justice, and promoting the rights of marginalized groups, Providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to governments and other partners to help them develop and implement policies and programs aimed at addressing social and



fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics. Overall, the UNDP is one of many organizations and entities that are working to address social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics. Other organizations and entities involved in these efforts could include other United Nations agencies, national governments, civil society organizations, foundations, and philanthropic organizations.\*4

## **B. World Bank**

The World Bank is a multilateral development institution that provides financing and technical assistance to support poverty reduction and sustainable development. The World Bank works with governments and other partners to support initiatives aimed at promoting social and economic inclusion, improving access to basic services, and creating economic opportunities for marginalized populations. \*8

## **C: United States of America**

The United States is involved in a range of efforts to address social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics, including implementing policies and programs aimed at reducing poverty, improving access to healthcare, education, and housing, and promoting economic development in marginalized communities. There are also many NGOs and philanthropic organizations based in the US that support initiatives to address social and fiscal neglect globally. \*13

## **D: Norway**

Norway: Norway is a leader in international development and has a strong focus on reducing poverty and promoting social and economic inclusion. The Norwegian government provides significant funding to support international development initiatives and partners with a range of organizations to address social and fiscal neglect of marginalized populations. \*11

## **E: India**

India: India is a country with significant levels of poverty and marginalization, and the government has implemented a range of policies aimed at reducing poverty and improving access to basic services. There are also many NGOs and community-based organizations in India that work directly with marginalized populations to address social and fiscal neglect. \*12

## **F: OXFAM**

Oxfam is an international NGO that works to reduce poverty and inequality by addressing the root causes of poverty, including social and economic exclusion. Oxfam works with partners around the world to provide direct services and advocacy on issues such as access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. \*10

## **G: AU - African Union**

The African Union is a continental organization comprised of 55 member states in Africa. The AU works to promote peace, security, and development in Africa and has a focus on addressing poverty and promoting social and economic inclusion. The AU has several initiatives

aimed at reducing poverty, such as the Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area. \*5

### **H: ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations**

ASEAN is a regional organization comprised of 10 member states in Southeast Asia. ASEAN works to promote economic integration and cooperation in the region and has a focus on reducing poverty and promoting social and economic inclusion. ASEAN has several initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, such as the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint.\*7

\*9

### **I: EU European Union**

European Union (EU): The European Union is a regional organization comprised of 27 member states in Europe. The EU works to promote economic integration and cooperation in the region and has a focus on reducing poverty and promoting social and economic inclusion. The EU has several initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, such as the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. \*6

## **V. Previous and Possible Solutions**

### **Previous Solutions**

Eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach. Over the years, several solutions have been proposed

and implemented to address this problem. Here are some of the previous solutions that have been used:

**Affirmative action programs:** Affirmative action programs aim to eliminate discrimination and promote diversity by providing targeted support to marginalized groups, such as racial minorities, women, and people with disabilities. These programs can take many forms, such as quotas in education and employment, and preferential treatment in contracting.

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**Economic empowerment initiatives:** Economic empowerment initiatives aim to provide marginalized communities with the resources they need to achieve economic self-sufficiency. These programs can include small business loans, job training programs, and financial literacy programs.

**Healthcare initiatives:** Healthcare initiatives aim to provide marginalized communities with access to affordable healthcare. These initiatives can include community health clinics, mobile health units, and outreach programs that target under-served populations.

**Legislative and policy changes:** Legislative and policy changes can have a significant impact on marginalized communities. This can include changes to laws and regulations that address issues like discrimination, affordable housing, and access to healthcare.

## **Possible solutions**

Increase political representation: Marginalized communities often lack political representation, which can result in neglect and marginalization. Governments can implement measures to increase the representation of marginalized communities in decision-making processes, such as affirmative action policies.

Address systemic inequalities: Systemic inequalities such as racism, sexism, and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity must be addressed to eliminate social and fiscal neglect. Governments can implement policies and programs that promote equality and address structural inequalities.

Increase access to necessary resources such as but not limited to education, medical support, food, shelter and clothing.

Overall, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to eliminating the social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics. However, a combination of the above solutions and other strategies can help to address the issue and promote greater equity and inclusion in society.

## **VI. Conclusion**

In conclusion, social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics is a significant issue that affects the well-being of individuals and societies. This research report has explored the root causes of this problem and proposed potential solutions to eliminate it. It is clear that social and fiscal neglect can lead to increased poverty, decreased access to education, health care, and basic

services, and hindered economic growth. Therefore, addressing these issues is crucial to ensuring a more equitable and just society.

The findings of this report suggest that eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics requires a comprehensive approach that involves government policies, community programs, and individual efforts. The government should prioritize funding for programs that promote social inclusion, provide economic opportunities, and increase access to basic services. These policies must also focus on addressing systemic issues such as discrimination, bias, and inequality that perpetuate social and fiscal neglect.

Moreover, community-based programs that work with marginalized groups can also play a crucial role in eliminating social and fiscal neglect. These programs can provide education, training, and other resources that enable individuals to become self-sufficient and economically independent. By empowering marginalized communities, these programs can help reduce poverty, increase access to basic services, and promote social inclusion.

Finally, individual efforts are also important in eliminating social and fiscal neglect. By challenging stereotypes, combating prejudice, and advocating for marginalized communities, individuals can help create a more inclusive and just society. This includes supporting and participating in initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics is essential to building a more equitable and just society. Through a comprehensive approach that involves government policies, community programs, and individual efforts, we can work towards a future where all individuals have access to the opportunities and resources necessary for a fulfilling life.

Furthermore Eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics is closely linked to the principles of human rights. Human rights are fundamental rights and freedoms that every individual is entitled to by virtue of being human. These include rights such as the right to life, liberty, and security of person, the right to education, health, and adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination and equality.

Social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics can lead to a violation of these human rights. When individuals are denied access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and clean water, their right to an adequate standard of living is violated. Similarly, when individuals

are discriminated against based on their gender, race, religion, or other factors, their right to non-discrimination and equality is violated.

Eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics is therefore necessary to uphold human rights principles. This requires addressing the root causes of neglect, such as discrimination, bias, and inequality. It also requires promoting policies and programs that ensure access to basic services and economic opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their social or economic background.

In addition, efforts to eliminate social and fiscal neglect must also recognize and respect cultural diversity and the right of individuals to self-determination. This means that interventions must be designed in a culturally sensitive manner, taking into account the unique needs and perspectives of different communities.

In conclusion, eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics is essential for upholding human rights principles and ensuring a more just and equitable society. By promoting social inclusion, economic empowerment, and non-discrimination, we can work towards a future where all individuals are able to enjoy their fundamental human rights.

## **VII. Questions to consider**

1. What are the primary marginalized demographics in your country? how are they currently being neglected socially and fiscally?
2. What policies and programs exist in your country to support marginalized demographics, and how effective are they?
3. What are the potential benefits of eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics, both for the individuals in those groups and for society as a whole?

4. What are the potential costs of implementing policies and programs to eliminate neglect of marginalized demographics, and who will bear those costs?
5. How can the United Nations ensure that policies and programs aimed at eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics are fair, equitable, and sustainable over the long term?
6. What role should the United Nations play in eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics, and how can we balance this with the responsibility of individual member states and accountability?
7. How can your country engage and empower marginalized demographics in the process of eliminating neglect and promoting social and economic justice?
8. What are some potential unintended consequences or challenges that may arise from implementing policies and programs aimed at eliminating social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics?
9. What are the causes of social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics?

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