



SYMBIOSIS
LAW SCHOOL, NAGPUR

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Constituent of Symbiosis International (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), Pune

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Founder: Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, M.Sc. Ph.D. (Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India)

Event Report - Documentary Screening followed by Open Discussion on the film "DIVIDED DESTINIES."

27 February 2025

On 27 February 2025, the International Cell of Symbiosis Law School Nagpur successfully organized a special event featuring the screening of the documentary "Divided Destinies," followed by an engaging open discussion. The event, which was held virtually at 5:00 P.M., brought together students for an evening of thought-provoking cinema and meaningful dialogue. Divided Destinies is a documentary directed by Mr. Atharva Aryan Singh (who graduated from Symbiosis Law School Hyderabad and did an MA in International Journalism from Cardiff University, United Kingdom) exploring themes of migration, identity, and socio-political divides.

Through deeply personal narratives, it sheds light on the struggles and resilience of individuals navigating displacement and belonging. The film's nomination by Cardiff University for the Royal Television Society Awards 2025 underscores its journalistic impact and cinematic excellence. The film provided various perspectives on the challenges migrants face and their complex journeys. The documentary sheds light on the experiences of three individuals: Angelina, a Ukrainian refugee living in the UK; Inas, another refugee; and Fahima, an asylum seeker from Syria.

The film highlighted sharp differences in how refugees from different regions are treated. For instance, Ukrainian refugees like Angelina benefit from extensive support under the UK's emergency schemes, including immediate access to Universal Credit, housing benefits, and healthcare. In contrast, Arab refugees such as Fahima face more significant challenges. One refugee in the film remarked on the unequal privileges granted to Ukrainian refugees compared to Arab refugees. This disparity underscores systemic inequalities within global refugee policies. The overarching takeaway from the film was the harsh reality of life for refugees.

Atharva emphasized that life is often at a crossroads, where displacement forces individuals to make difficult choices while grappling with identity and belonging.

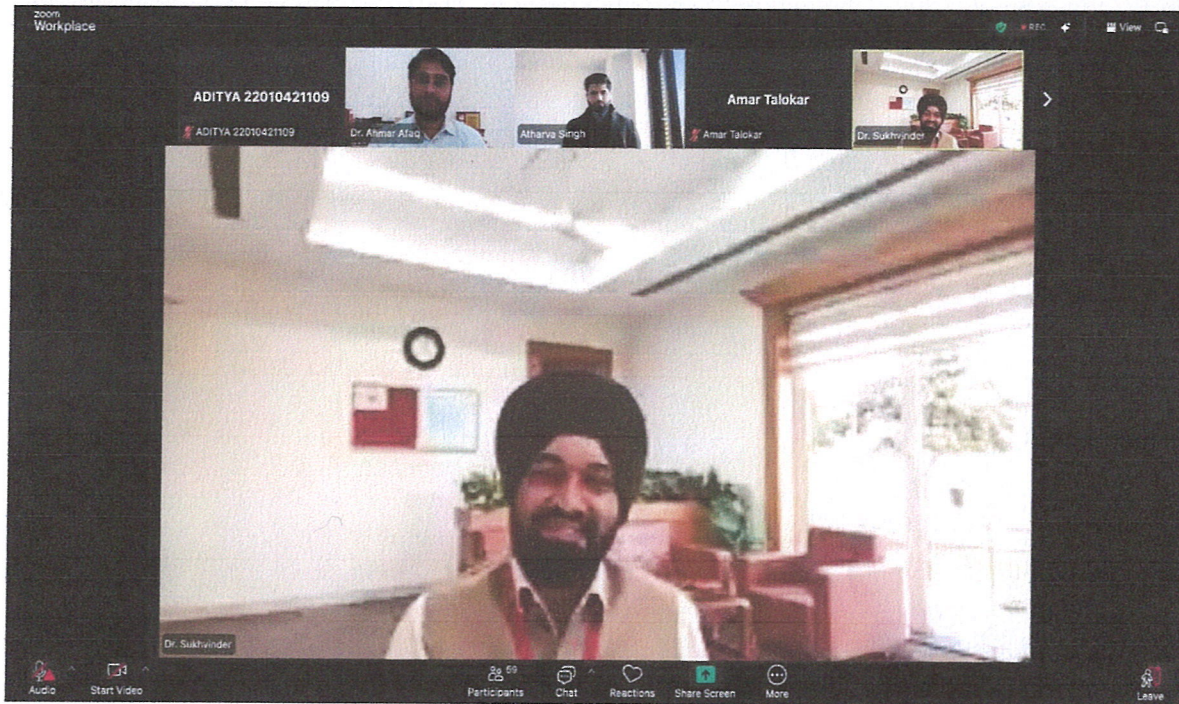
Following the screening, participants engaged in a dynamic discussion moderated by members of the International Cell. Topics included the psychological impact of migration, identity shifts, and societal perceptions of displaced individuals. Students shared diverse perspectives, enriching the conversation with personal insights and reflections. The discussion also discussed how policies like the UK's Ukrainian visa schemes have provided critical support but highlighted gaps in addressing global refugee needs. A significant portion of the event was dedicated to discussion; Atharva addressed a few key questions regarding refugee treatment and potential solutions: Is there evident discrimination between Ukrainian and other country refugees?

Answer: There is differential treatment between refugees from different countries.

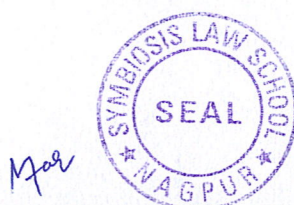
However, the UK is not as extreme as some other nations. Political ideologies often influence this differential treatment. Question: What is your suggestion regarding how to approach the issue of refugees? Answer: The suggested approach includes using mind mapping and group exercises. These tools can help foster empathy, identify systemic barriers, and promote more equitable refugee support systems.

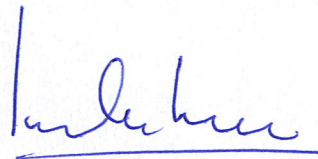
As a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the UK must protect refugees and provide them with fundamental rights such as housing, work, and education. However, the Convention does not mandate equal treatment for all refugees, allowing for differential support based on national policies and international relations. Irregular vs. Illegal Routes: The discussion discussed the distinction between irregular and illegal routes. While refugees may enter countries via irregular means, the Convention protects them from penalties for such entry if they present themselves without delay. This nuance is crucial in understanding the legal status of refugees.

The documentary screening and discussion successfully achieved its objective of creating an educational and reflective space for participants. By addressing themes of migration and identity, *Divided Destinies* inspired attendees to think critically about societal divides and human resilience. The event underscored the power of cinema to educate, engage, and unite communities.



Documentary screening followed by an open discussion of the film "DIVIDED DESTINIES."




Director
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