Every individual in society has a responsibility to obey just laws and to disobey and resist unjust laws.

*Write a response in which the extent to which you agree or disagree with this statement. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that can be used to challenge your position.*

Mankind in the current age is a drastically more organized and subdued being as compared to his initial days of wild and uncivilized living. As time has progressed, we have evolved from uncontrollable savages who do as they please into cultured beings, and it is certainly for the better. Hence, it can safely be said that abiding by fair and just laws is a fundamental responsibility of every individual. Yet, over the long history of civilized mankind, there have always been a few laws which can unequivocally be termed as unjust, either for a targeted minority, or for the entire civilization as a whole. Thus, in addition to abiding by the just laws, it is also a primal responsibility of every human to resist, and if necessary, even disobey the unjust laws that have been imposed upon them.

Sentience is a huge part of what distinguishes humans from other animals. A law that is fair is an embodiment of what a particular state considers to be correct or incorrect. Hence, obedience of such laws is a duty of every citizen who is a part of that state. Without such obedience, we run a risk of taking our society towards anarchy. On the other hand, there have been numerous unfair (in some cases inhuman) laws - established by corrupt elected officials and monarchs - governing various societies in recent history that have later been abolished are sufficient evidence that expressing resistance towards unfair laws is a puissant tool in creating a better society. From the abolishment of slavery in America, to revocation of laws against female voting in several countries, it is clear that whenever an unjust law is challenged with sufficient strength and determination, it can be erased from the books. Even in more recent times, the laws imposed against homsexual

relationships and the law against watching pornography in India were abolished due to severe backlash from the public.

However, one must be careful in categorizing laws as unjust. There are certain laws that might appear to infringe upon liberties of individuals, but are in fact created in order to protect them. The laws prohibiting cigarette smoking in public are exemplary of this. They are protecting the health of passive smokers, rather than damaging the liberty of an individual who wishes to smoke.

In conclusion, I express strong support for the claim that has been made, while urging citizens to stay well informed of the laws that are governing them, and also display perspicacity in deciding which of these laws are just and which are unjust.