

Forum: Forum on Inequalities

Thematic: How to reduce inequalities on different scales?

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Marital status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="radio"/> Married/in a relationship<input type="radio"/> Single<input checked="" type="radio"/> With children, if so, how many: 2	Level of education <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Primary<input type="radio"/> Secondary<input checked="" type="radio"/> University
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1. How does the theme of inequalities concern you?

I'm a 45-year-old Danish man living in Aarhus with my wife of 18 years and our two daughters, aged 8 and 10. After 11 years as an Electrical Engineer at Vestas, I was recently promoted to Lead Electrical Engineer. I work on "high quality design solutions" that can be implemented in either labs or the wind turbines themselves, helping evaluate and resolve damages in the main components etc.

I now earn approximately 700,000 DKK annually, which comes out to about 650,000 DKK after taxes. I hold a master's in electrical engineering, specializing in renewable energy systems from Aarhus University.

I am not negatively impacted by inequalities and consider myself to be well off, considering the average salary after taxes is approximately 300000 DKK per year. I do admit that I am in a privileged position, but overall Denmark does not suffer from inequalities as much as other countries. With a Gini coefficient of 0.29, the wealth distribution is within reasonable limits. Moreover, the Danish welfare state and system is very rigorous and aids most of the population. To my knowledge, thanks to the system citizens of Denmark get free access to education, child benefits, unemployment benefits, a good pension, healthcare, public transport etc. This is achievable by the high tax rates, which I do not mind, since it does help keep our country running. Whenever I can, I donate to charities and NGOs and while I may not be the most proactive, I believe that I worked hard to get to the privileged position I am in, and that people, no matter the financial situation, should have the ability to work hard to achieve their goals, which means that they should have access to education and other services as much as anyone else. Immigration laws

do not directly affect me either; yet it is disheartening to see how migrants are being treated in this country. It is abhorrent how such things are happening while we as a country can support those people in need and choose to deter and discriminate (i.e. the entire Mjølnerparken situation.) The fearmongering has got to stop, and I believe it is mostly the government that does all the “fearing”. Most of us Danes are just fine with migrants.

2. What do you suggest at your level?

Although Denmark is advanced in its welfare system, there are some changes that I believe would be beneficial. Developing for the green transition is crucial, investing in reskilling programs for workers in declining industries (such as those concerning fossil fuels), and forming partnerships with colleges and companies (like Vestas) offering apprenticeships with living wages to push renewable energies. Although I am not very informed nor involved in politics, I do believe that Denmark is harsh towards immigrants and should change that. To address Denmark's current harsh migration policies, I propose a big shift. Replace neglecting, demolishing and leaving its' occupants in a worse state the so-called “ghettos” or “parallel societies”, with something like the Opportunity Zones in the United States that fund multilingual education, local job creation etc. I do not agree with the forced cultural training, instead it could be highly recommended. Implementing more international schools, that have courses in English for example and having more courses in English in higher education, instead of limiting it to Danish speakers.