

Forum: Forum on Inequalities

Thematic: How to reduce inequalities on different scales?

Name of the Citizen: Mohammed Karem

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

Having come from very little, I was fortunate enough to receive an education at the University of King Abdulaziz. I graduated with a degree and master's in business administration and have recently landed a job at the national commercial bank in Jeddah as a Desk helper. I am very grateful for my education; however, I feel as though the struggle for equality is persistent in my country as I come across it in my everyday life longing for change.

When the subject of inequality comes to mind, most people think of it as an insignificant issue. On an international level, inequality is a massive crisis. As the wealthiest increase their earnings, the not so wealthy are left to suffer. Statistically speaking, the richest top 10% of people receive about 52% of global income which is more than half of the global income. On the contrary, the bottom 50% of people receive less than 10% of it.

In Saudi Arabia, as an educated and employed individual, I think about these inequalities at both a local and international scale. At home, I see gaps in my regular day-to-day work as a banker. For example, opportunities are hardly ever distributed fairly. Due to the way our government functions as an absolute monarchy, some people have advantages in their career, not due to their hard work and dedication, but rather to the connections and wealth they acquire. It is especially noticeable in my line of work. It is heartbreaking to think my career is mostly dependent on connections and social status. Even when leaving the city, I see it in the streets. Jeddah, at its core, is a beautiful city. However, when driving towards the outskirts, the slums are filled with poor people, struggling to feed themselves, let alone their families.

## **2. What do you suggest at your level?**

To help reduce these inequalities, I believe change is necessary on many scales. On a local level, making UNITED equal standards in the workplace could reduce workplace inequality and stabilize careers. Applying these standards locally would be very hard under an absolute monarchy. As a solution, making them on a united basis would legally force them into being put into place whilst opening new opportunities for all. Regarding settlements; affordable housing and financial support programs for the young looking for investments can make a real difference in their future, allowing them to experience proper funding without being crushed financially. In addition to the workplace, introducing mentorship and training programs could help Saudis compete equally for leadership roles, implying more equality and hope for all.

On a global scale, countries and financial institutes can help create opportunities for everyone. In my case, offering local opportunism can be hard due to the political situation but globally, anything is possible. An example would be to include making investment platforms with lower entry rates; this would encourage the lower class to participate in global markets. Banks and even companies should take further responsibility when it comes to poverty and sustainability, because inequality is not just about poverty but also about education, healthcare, and other social services. On a personal note, I want to use my skills in finance to support fair investing projects and initiatives that empower less privileged communities.

In conclusion, the goal is not to start giving handouts or blame someone for the flaws in today's world, but rather to work together – (both in and out of Saudi) - to make fairer policies and give people equal chances to succeed step by step.