

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: 1	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 am 59 years old, and I live in Barcelona, where I work as a nurse in the emergency department of the Fundació Hospital de l'Esperit Sant. Our hospital serves the northern suburbs, where increasingly more people are forced to move as the cost of housing in the city center is increasing and becoming unaffordable.

The loss of my husband, who passed away four years ago, has made it even harder for me to manage the rising expenses, forcing me to work night shifts which are better paid. However, this means tougher work. I have been confronted with numerous complicated patients. Cases of heroin and cocaine overdoses, as well as victims of violence and assault. In the night shifts at the hospital, I faced the real state of the communities in the neighborhoods of Badalona. Night and day seem to be two parallel dimensions. During the night, a social disease appears, and it is rarely perceived by most people outside the hospital.

I have treated teenagers brutally stabbed in gang fights and patients suffering from overdoses. Unfortunately, these are not isolated cases. I wonder why my hometown, Barcelona, with its rich culture and strong Catalan identity, has become a victim and passive spectator of this terrible social decline.

The suburbs surrendered to the economic blackmail of the city center: the unsolved problems moved from the city center to the suburbs, to "clean" the city center for the benefit of the tourists and the rich people.

2. What do you suggest at your level?

The moment we accept an asymmetrical society, we also accept its synonyms: growing poverty, fracturing community, increasing crime and drug use, extremist political movements.

On the other hand, a community which takes care of each and every one contributes to fighting inequalities and has the power to rehabilitate the individual. It makes the rights and values, on which our constitutions are based concrete, tangible and untouchable. We need a society which places solidarity at the service of justice and common welfare. A politics which avoids giving advantages to small groups.

The fight against inequality is essential for a democratic society. It requires perseverance, consistency and awareness of the consequences that unimplemented reforms have within the social circle. I think that limiting and regulating over-tourism, putting a cap on the cost of housing, equally redistributing incomes (including fighting the gender salary gap), supporting marginalized people could contribute to solving the problem.

Institutions have the responsibility, the duty and the power to act to enable this mission. They must enforce equality that allows everyone to have the same opportunities for growth and development.

The dynamics which I see in my city are similar to those of many other European ones. They are a clear reflection of a social international trend. A combined and coordinated action by Institutions at all levels - local, national, and European – would have a multiplication effect in the fight against inequalities.

We can work together for a better Europe, Institutions and citizens hand in hand. It is important for the palace to accurately listen and acknowledge the citizens' conditions in the streets, hospitals, schools, suburbs.

If we fight inequality all together, we will be able to build a fairer, more united and stronger Europe, passing through a more cohesive community.