

Forum: Forum on Inequalities

Thematic: How to reduce inequalities on different scales?

Name of the Citizen: Asmi singh, Bus conductor

Marital status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Married/in a relationship<input type="radio"/> Single<input 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 type="radio"/> University
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1. How does the theme of inequalities concern you?

As a bus conductor, we see inequality from close up every single day. On our bus travels students, workers, migrants, elderly people and families rely on us because they cannot afford other forms of transport. Yet our profession, which keeps cities and communities moving, often suffers from inequalities. We receive low wages, unsafe working conditions and very little recognition.

Wage gaps and working conditions: compared to other professions, we earn less and face irregular hours, stress and unsafe conditions. As a woman driver i am at more risk to harassment than a male driver. I face the issue on a regular basis. Inflation also makes it especially difficult to cover the basic needs. A colleague once told me that he had to choose between paying the rent or buying his child's medicine. Inflation eats away our paychecks.

Regional disparities: some of us that work in bigger cities have slightly better access to subsidies and facilities. The colleagues that live in smaller towns or rural areas struggle with outdated buses, poor infrastructure and higher costs. This inequality between smaller towns and bigger cities only proves the problem of today's economy: the rich only get richer and the poor only get poorer.

Gender and safety inequalities: female bus conductors like me are still rare, because the ones that do enter this profession are very often faced by harassment and lack of secure facilities. I even feel unsafe walking to the depot at night because there are no secure facilities.

Lack of political voice: We are only visible when our unions strike, but our everyday struggles are very often ignored by those who hold power. our daily struggles; exhaustion, stress and disrespect rarely make it into debates or laws.

We believe that society must start by respecting valuable workers like us. We serve as the backbone of public mobility and a society cannot claim fairness if those people who carry its people to school, hospitals, workplaces and many others are left behind and devalued. A society that depends on us must also respect us.

2. What do you suggest at your level?

Fair pay and support: wages that keep in pace with the inflation and contracts that guarantee job security

Safer working conditions: There should be better facilities available for bus conductors such as toilets, rest spaces and secure depots. There should also be very strict action taken against harassment. Zero tolerance towards harassment

Equal opportunities: More women should be encouraged to join this profession and ensure equal pay for equal work.

Support for provinces and small towns: There should be an investment in buses, terminals and services outside of big cities so that workers and passengers there aren't forgotten.

Respect and recognition: Public campaigns that value transport workers should educate passengers and governments on treating us conductors with dignity and support.

For us inequality is not a statistic, it is our daily reality of not being able to properly provide for our family, of watching passengers argue because fares are too high, of not having the ability to keep up with inflation and of not being able to afford necessities. Reducing these inequalities means recognizing that bus conductors are essential workers important for the economy, and ensuring that we, along with the passengers we serve, have fair access to the opportunities of life.