

Forum: The Citizen forum on inequalities

Theme: How to reduce inequalities at different scales?

Name of citizen: John Smith

Marital status:	Level of education
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Married/in a relationship	<input type="radio"/> Primary
<input type="radio"/> Single	<input type="radio"/> Secondary
<input type="radio"/> With children, if so, how many: 2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> University

1. How does the theme of inequalities concern you?

I'm a Canadian lawyer from Toronto; I'm married and have two children. I'm university educated and have a high-end job at a legal firm as a barrister. In general, the laws regarding redistribution have been good to me, I grew up in a middle-class family and through hard work and determination I have been able to make my way to the proverbial "top".

That said, I understand the difficulties the disadvantaged face in regard to social climbing. Expensive university tuition fees and skyrocketing prices of homes being the two biggest challenges. Despite it admittedly not being the primary concern of our forum, the question of emissions has become unavoidable, especially considering the richest contribute to emissions so much more than the rest. What's the solution? Well, I'd tend to argue that those principles of free market economics that have brought the prosperity we enjoy world-wide today are the way to go.

Many leaders of the developing world like to hide their own chronic misgovernance behind hazy ideas of neocolonialism, or, even worse, claim to still suffer from the damages of colonialism. As a Canadian the benefits of British rule have been evident, dare one say instrumental in our nation's growth and existence. The nations of the developing world mustn't hang on to botched attempts at hasty independence from their colonisers. Africa was carved up into countries that didn't correspond to natural or ethnic borders whatsoever, so why would one want those same borders to declare independence? The problems that arise from this are most evident in the splits in South Africa and Nigeria.

2. What do you suggest at your level?

As a lawyer I evidently consider justice and fairness as two of the pillars of my worldview, as such the competitiveness of businesses on a global level is fundamental in achieving a more just world! That's why I say not to tariffs and further punishment of globalisation and trade are bound to cause more inequality; the last thing we need is more "liberating" leftist dictators in African countries.

On a national level, the question of reducing inequalities has a solution which nowadays seems to sadly have little backers. That solution is a higher capital gains tax and higher investment in small businesses with reduced barriers for competition. Many like to misrepresent capitalism as an oligarchy of corporations, well certainly that is not the case. Competition functions when markets are easy to join and illegal to dominate. That's why I propose increased micro financing opportunities, helping small businesses grow and letting effective competition ensure growth.

In essence I believe that our solution comes from our population; to let people get what they've worked for; to not let governments decide who deserves money but to let hard work be rewarded; let's invest in success.