

**Forum: Citizen forum on inequalities**

**Theme: How to reduce inequalities at different scales?**

**Name of citizen: Li Jinyu**

<b>Marital status:</b>	<b>Level of education</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Married/in a relationship</li><li>○ <b>Divorced</b></li><li>○ With children, if so, how many</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Primary</li><li>○ Secondary</li><li>○ <b>University</b></li></ul>

**Personal information**

My name is Li Jinyu. I am a 36-year-old Chinese man, born in Shanghai, and divorced. I have a university degree, a master in international commerce at the University of Shanghai and I currently work as a specialist in import-export for my country, in Shanghai. My job involves dealing with international trade, logistics, and economic relations between countries, which gives me a broad perspective on global inequalities.

**How does the theme of inequalities concern you?**

Inequalities affect me both personally and professionally. Firstly, In my field import-export, I see first-hand the differences between the large multinational corporations and SMEs. Large multinational corporations dominate international trade thanks to their financial power, advanced technology, and global networks. However, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) often struggle to access markets or secure competitive financing. I frequently watch promising smaller firms stop in their expansion simply because they cannot match the bargaining, and financial power of large companies. This concentration of wealth and influence reduces competition and innovation. What I see every day reflects what statistics show: the top 1 % owning almost 40 % of global wealth while the rest is suffering.

Gender inequality is also visible: women are often paid less (77% of man salary on average at a global view) and also excluded from leadership positions (less than 20% of women. Beyond being unjust, this wastes talent and leads to less diverse, and less creative decision-making.

Another major issue is the exploitation of workers that work for long hours, in unsafe conditions for a minimal pay, especially migrants in developing countries. For example, in Qatar, thousands died during the 2022 World Cup projects due to unsafe working conditions.

And finally more at a national level the rural–urban inequality in China. The Chinese rural population continues to face a significant gap compared with urban populations. For example education, it's very difficult for a rural Chinese to access an urban school. The workers from rural zone of china are also paid less, and worked in poor conditions

**What solutions would you find most helpful?**

As an import-export specialist from Shanghai, I can promote fairer practices in global trade. First, I can prioritize working with suppliers who respect labor rights and guarantee safe working conditions, and with my influence and contacts I can try to be a whistleblower, to denounce this situation. Second, I can encourage equal opportunities by supporting companies that employ women fairly and value diversity in leadership. Third, I can use my expertise to help SMEs to access international markets, helping to acquire the tools and networks they need to compete with multinational corporations.