

Forum: Citizen forum on inequalities

Theme: How to reduce inequalities at 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 type="radio"/> With children, if so, how many 1	Level of education <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Primary<input checked="" type="radio"/> Secondary<input type="radio"/> University
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How does the theme of inequalities concern you?

As a 34 year old man working for a tourist complex on the Aegean sea, one form of inequality that concerns me is the masculine stereotype. In a study done to see how women and men (married and unmarried) are stereotyped in Turkey, undergraduates gave adjectives to describe these people. Unmarried men were often given the words “womanizer”, “self-indulgent” and “immature”, on the other hand married men were given “breadwinner” and “father”. However, both married and unmarried men were described as having the same power dynamic with women; “dominant” and “masculine”. Turkish society places a lot of importance on honor and masculinity. Therefore, men with differing personalities, beliefs and nature may struggle within this system to live up to society's expectations of them and traditional masculinity. Men who do not embody aggressiveness or competitiveness within professional settings may be viewed as weak and unfit, which may block job/promotion opportunities. Men who accept the traditional male roles are connected to higher accounts of depression, anxiety and substance abuse, oppositely non-conformist men face similar struggles related to social rejection. The income gap (due to being in a lower socioeconomic stance) with the provider role increases stress related to pay and providing for the rest of the family.

I am also affected by insufficient regulation regarding employment practices. Illegal tour guiding has been an issue in Turkey for a long time. These illegal operations prioritize tourist capacity over fair labour. This leads to taking customers and revenue away from official tour guides by damaging the image of the professional tour guides and in the process damaging the public's opinion on touring in Turkey . Furthermore, this impacts employment and fees of professional tour guides negatively, travel companies are employing less professional tour guides to reduce costs. Illegal tour guides are even spreading misinformation about historical sites and other tour guides and redirecting tourists to places (shops for instance) where they gain money. This prevents

professionals from getting customers, making money and keeping their and the country's image favorable.

What solutions would be helpful for you?

To solve these issues, better regulations for tour guides/companies would be beneficial, so that illegal organizations cannot take advantage of the situation and tourists. This could eliminate the casualties that illegal organizations cause, making working in the tourism field fair.

Furthermore, challenging the stigma surrounding non-traditional traits in masculine identities would reduce mental health issues caused by discrimination and ostracization creating a safer and more accepting society.

Additionally, making regulations to decrease the income gap would help decrease inequality. For example, it would be advantageous to open opportunities and offer more support for low income households through investing in education, increasing the minimum wage, and improving workers rights. Working towards a more progressive tax system and strengthening social security nets, and towards a political climate that accommodates these measures, would, in my opinion, be a step in the right direction.