

Forum: Citizen Forum on Inequalities**Theme: How to reduce inequalities at different scales?****Name of citizen: Carla Da Silva**

Marital status:	Level of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Married/in a relationship○ Single○ With children, if so, how many: 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Primary○ Secondary○ University

1. How does the theme of inequalities concern you?

I am a 27 year old woman, working as a functionary in Luanda, Angola. I am currently working as a Functionary in Luanda. I belong to the lower middle class due to my not extremely high but steady income and the fact that I have not studied at university but finished Secondary.

In Luanda we are struggling with inequality due to the period, during which Portugal had colonized Angola, and the civil war that took place from 1975 and 2002. Nowadays Angola is struggling with corruption. All that leads to a huge gap of income, which is shown by the GINI index of 51.3 in 2018. Standing in contrast with the 26.4 of Belgium in 2022.

The inequality in Angola concerns me personally because I am a woman. Angola achieved a lot in the field of gender equality but there is still a lot of room for improvement. As 30% of the women now aged between 20 and 24 were married or in a union before turning 18, literacy rate of women is lower compared to men. Therefore, women tend to get less qualified jobs coming with a lower income being a big disadvantage for women in society. However, gender inequality is not the only problem in Angola. I come from a poor, rural area with bad social services and infrastructure, but the wealth is concentrated in urban areas. In Angola, 20% of the wealthiest people own 59% of the wealth. These people often live in urban areas. The wealth is so unequally distributed since connections are more important in the Angolan economy than hard work. Which gives young people without these connections, but eager to work hard, less opportunities.

2. What do you suggest at your level?

I want to reduce the amount of inequality in Angola drastically, by investing in the rural areas. For example, building new schools, especially in the countryside, will result in giving the people living in rural areas more opportunities through better

education. Further developing infrastructure in the countryside will improve mobility and promote opportunities for rural areas. Finally, constructing and improving hospitals in rural areas will improve healthcare. Eventually this will lower inequality of life expectancy between the different regions of Angola, and between Angola and more developed countries. For instance, whereas Belgium had a life expectancy of 82 years in 2023, Angola had a much lower life expectancy of 65 years in 2023.

Another inequality that affects me personally is the inequality of income and wealth. Therefore, I propose the following actions to reduce it. One action that should be taken is redistribution by taxing especially high income, inheritance and property. This would help to prevent the rich from becoming richer and richer. Extreme poverty could be fought with a universal basic income. Making higher education and healthcare available to everyone no matter how wealthy or poor they are. Therefore, higher education should be free for those who cannot afford it themselves. For example, the government should provide scholarships for less privileged students. Young people who are educated and healthy will be able to receive better jobs and escape poverty.

An inequality especially important to me is the gender inequality in Angola. As said before, many women marry and stop their education before turning 18. As a result, women that do work often belong to the low-paid workforce. The unemployment rate for women is significantly higher than the unemployment rate for men. These problems should be solved by the following actions. One possible action is to support young mothers financially to give them the opportunity of staying in school. Another action should be to support talented women in starting their own businesses. Finally, education for adult women would increase the number of working women and better their pay.

All these actions will drastically reduce the inequality between rural and urban areas, between rich and poor and between women and men. This will not only help the disadvantaged but, in the long run, everyone.