

ES PERANTO



Examples of inequality

Author: Stavros Fragkomanolis



The term social inequality means a situation where people have unequal access in resources, services and positions in the social structure. Social inequality must have three vital elements, so to be socially constructed. Firstly, inequality must be legitimized, which means that a system of inequality is necessary to exist and be in accordance with the rule of law. Secondly, inequality must appear with specific, repeated and stable forms. Thirdly, inequality must keep its characteristics from one generation to the next, so to say that it really exists. Basically, there are many different types of inequality like economic, educational, racial, ethnic etc. Many political ideologies have accepted inequality as an inevitable factor to their whole structure of building a stable status quo. Our experience nowadays can assure that most democratic countries in developed world have adopted this kind of ideologies, consequently laws permit social inequality and fewer opportunities for certain groups. By interviewing people from different countries of Europe, we collected enough evidence to prove our words. A Latvian friend, Roberts, explains that in Riga a great number of entrepreneurs are Russians and they usually decide to hire only those Latvian candidates who speak Russian even though their job tasks don't require knowledge of the language. Minx from Romania points out that people in

her country are very prejudiced with the gipsy minority, but they have serious reasons to do so. What happens though with Roma people who respect Romanian laws and are willing to get educated and offer their services to employers? Usually these people are victims of stereotypes and it's nearly impossible for them to find a job. In Turkey, Burcu notices that men are higher in the social scale than women because the stereotype that dominates is that the man must provide all goods to the family and he is the one that takes most of the decisions about family issues. On the other hand, women usually take care of the household and the upbringing of the children. In general though the responsibilities a man has, are evaluated as more important than these of a woman. Islam has contributed greatly to form the status we just described, but nowadays this situation is changing in a fast pace from one generation to the next. Last but not least, Ania claims that in Poland the health system normally provides aid to the Polish population. Although, this situation changes when it comes to homeless people who need health care, as they are not capable of paying the expenses of the medication they need. In conclusion, we end up that even in wealthy countries inequalities agonize society and perhaps this is a problem that we will have to accept and live with it.

Titel

Author: Bieke Longeville



Except for the chocolate, I am not particularly proud of my nationality. However, when it comes to gay rights, I feel lucky to be a Belgian, as we were the second country in the world to legalize same sex marriage. Once I was out of the closet, I rarely had to take my sexual orientation into account. When I walk hand in hand with my girlfriend and occasionally stop to kiss her, I hardly get strange looks. Except for the rainbow flags, my wedding party will not differ from the celebration of a Belgian straight couple. My parents can't wait to have grandchildren and constantly ask me if I have already been to the doctor. Apart from the prides and the parties, being a lesbian in Belgium is actually quite boring, just as it should be.

In 2018, I hardly realized that it's a totally different story for a lot of European gay citizens. In Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Cyprus,

Slovakia and Slovenia, equality between gay and straight people is lacking. When I read the opinions of each country about gay rights in the 2015 Eurobarometer on discrimination, I realized that I had to be careful with being open about my sexual orientation during this youth exchange. Nevertheless, I wanted to take the challenge to make this topic open to discussion. I received a variety of reactions. Some participants were driven by ignorance; it doesn't appear to be general knowledge that homosexuality is genetically determined and therefore congenital. I can imagine that the first time you see two guys kissing is a strange experience. Others had a religious, conservative image and perceived homosexuality as a sin. Yet I've generally experienced that during activities, the majority of participants on this youth exchange wanted equal rights for gay people. Although homosexuality is still hidden in most of the participating countries, the youth may make a difference in a few years.



Things to know when travelling to another country

Author: Sylwia Gontarzewska

Regardless of the direction of departure, information should be kept in mind by every tourist!

Practical tips

1. Know the culture

It doesn't matter to which country you go, you need to get to know the culture there and get acquainted with the customs. Before you go, you need to answer a few questions namely: What are the customs for a given country? How should you treat the service? What's going on there? What language is the local population using? It's good to "explore" culture exactly because many world traditions are quite controversial and can surprise us.

2. Become a resident of the places you visit

Choosing fewer tourist destinations often allow you to experience your journey deeper. During the trip, always try to go to local pubs, find out what the favorite entertainment of the locals is.

3. Use Couchsurfing

It is by far the most popular social travel-network. The website provides a platform for members to stay as a guest at someone's home (homestay), host travelers, meet other members, or join an event. Unlike many hospitality services, Couchsurfing is an example of the gift economy, collaborative consumption, and sharing; there is no monetary exchange between members and there is no expectation for future rewards.

5. Travel with hand luggage

This simple method will save you a lot of money, especially in the case of weekend trips in Europe. Use tricks for easy packaging: instead of folding clothes, it's better to roll them. They take up less space, inserting socks into shoes, always put heavier things on the bottom of the case, first we pack the largest items by volume.

6. Use tickets around the world

Many airlines offer combined tickets, during which several stops can be made at various locations around the world. It's a much cheaper solution than buying single tickets one way. Thanks to this you can compose a plan of your own dream trip around the world.



7. Travel like a local

To significantly reduce travel costs, focus on local transport. Many tourists are afraid of discomfort, but in the buses and trains that the locals use, you will see "real life". You will only pay a penny for the ticket.

8. Exchange work on meals and washing

Many writers and bloggers writing about travels have realized their dreams in this way. Take part in an organized voluntary service and spend a few weeks in a paradise location. If you are the life of the party, consider helping in the hostel where you want to stay. In return for work at the reception or in the hostel bar, you will get free accommodation and pocket money for small expenses.

8. The most important - positive attitude

A good attitude is essential! After the hardships of planning packing and before leaving the most important is optimism and a good mood. As part of the preparation, planning, arranging, organizing and packing, it's easy to forget that we are leaving for ourselves, relax and de-stress. So let's do everything to make the trip a rest not an additional problem and stressful.



How we will all end up the same

Globalization pushes us towards unification

Author: Anneke Cattebeke

Since the first human set foot outside of his village, cultures have been merging, mixing and changing.

Some old customs fade with the passing of time and others change with the new cultures that mix with our society. Though every region has their unique characteristics, seeing that certain customs are becoming universal is quite interesting to see. This creates an interesting thought, we might all end up with the same customs one day. How would we describe our identity when our customs are similar? Globalization impacts the food we eat, the movies we watch, the music we listen to, the bars we like to go to, ...

Nowadays, every city has a hipster bar where you can buy a soy latte with whole-wheat oatmeal cookies on the side. But is this necessarily a bad thing? According to Stavros (Greece), keeping old customs intact and reinforcing them, is a way of respecting the ancestors who created



them and allow to pass knowledge to the next generation. Whilst Stefan (Romania) believes that bringing change in a society can be experienced as an enrichment of the existing culture.

By travelling, you discover that many of the customs you believed to be unique for your own country, aren't that unique at all.

How will the world look like in another 50 years? Will we all be stuck in our own countries? Or will we have opened up the borders of this world, in order to share food and culture?



