

## *A Problem*

I have a problem. A problem that has existed way before I was born and will be there after I die at this rate. A problem that not many people see as a problem and a problem that needs to be solved immediately. A problem that is getting out of hand and expanding by the minute.

What is the problem you may ask? It's the significant divide between the bourgeoisie and proletariat. The bourgeoisie typically meaning the capitalist class who own most of society's wealth and means of production. The proletariat meaning the social class that does not have ownership of the means of production and whose only means of subsistence is to sell their labour power for a wage or salary. Like I said I have a problem. A problem that I'm bringing attention to and using my voice for it to be heard.

As a young woman who grew up in Barking, this issue has stood in the forefront of my life as I've seen mothers struggling to make ends meet. It isn't their fault. It's not fair. It's not fair how people are struggling for the basic necessities in life whilst others live comfortably due to the generational wealth they were born into. It shouldn't be allowed that people can spend money on gold toilets whilst others are waiting anxiously for their wages to come through, wages that will again leave them waiting for next month's wages. It shouldn't be allowed that people are working for most of their lives and might only be able to retire at the age of 65 and shockingly, the age is going up year by year. Wealth is unequally and unethically being distributed and I can't bear to understand why. The opposite of poverty isn't wealth. The opposite of poverty is justice.

Statistically, hundreds of millions of people are living in extreme poverty while huge rewards go to those at the very top, just for simply being at the top. Billionaires earned enough money in 2017 to end extreme poverty seven times over. Forty-two of the richest people in the world now hold as much wealth as 3.7 billion of the poorest people in the world. The inequality crisis is out of control. Desperate people are howling for help yet they're being ignored. The gap between the poor and the rich is expanding greatly and yet nothing is being done to prevent this.

Another thing that compliments this problem is the education system vulnerable children are being forced to participate in. The education system does nothing but widen the gap between the bourgeoisie and proletariat by subliminally portraying to children that a 9-5 job is the way and the only way to a successful life. It glamourises a life where you're constantly working, whether it's for GCSEs, A-levels and degrees. All for a 9-5 where most of your life is spent slaving away working for a bare minimal wage, a wage that any bourgeoisie wouldn't realise was missing from their bank account.

So, tell me, how long do people have to work the streets to satisfy debts whilst life passes away before them? How long do we have to wait for people to realise that we aren't adequately sharing the resources this earth provides us? How much louder do people have to cry for help to finally be acknowledged?