
10 REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES – Sophie Reiter

There is a big gap between financial and social resources of the rich and poor populations. This affects different countries in the world as there are people with different social backgrounds within the same country. These gaps are source of injustice and lead to unequal opportunities and discrimination. It is crucial for modern society to close these gaps and reduce inequalities within and among people regardless of gender, race, religious beliefs, or economic status. Since this is the only way for countries to flourish peacefully, the United Nations established a program with 17 goals to achieve a better world by 2030.

To achieve reduction of inequalities, ten targets were created: First, financial income inequalities must be reduced, since it is known that the bottom 40 percent of the population clearly earn below the average income. Also, there is still a gender difference in income known as the “gender pay gap”. Furthermore, it is necessary to include all men and women regardless of their age, sex, disabilities, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic status into social, political, and economic agendas. The next important and third target is to ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination especially concerning legislation. One more example of how to reduce inequalities among countries is to create responsible and well-managed migration policies. An uncontrolled migration leads to thousands of deaths and suffering. One last possibility to reduce disparity between the countries is to encourage development assistance and investment in least developed countries. Additionally, there are many other targets within this goal.

To reduce discrimination in my direct surroundings, I think we should try to reduce prejudice. A good way to start this could be a student exchange program with less developed countries. Pupils from these countries could stay at host parents’ houses and visit our school. Learning about their circumstances and struggles in daily life could change the view that many of us have and give them the opportunity to benefit from our society.

I recently met a guy from China at a charity dinner who told us that he spent a year as a foreign student in Germany. After his graduation from school in China, he decided to study engineering in Germany and is now employed in a big Company in Leoben. He managed to overcome many obstacles and is now well situated. This idea is a good way to reduce inequalities and help people from less fortunate regions in our world to gain new opportunities.
