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Fearles Society: Better Society?

INEQUALITY: What Differs Us

SO, ARE YOU A RACIST?

Fearless Society - A Better Society?

by Veronika Gost'ová and Gönül Yücel



Everybody is afraid of something. Including myself. To be afraid is a normal feature of a human personality. My brother is afraid of spiders. My mom is afraid of her children getting hurt. I am afraid of waking up to the world where no compassion remained. And that might happen, when people will succumb to xenophobia.

Every day, every minute, there is someone, who is suffering the consequences of it. But who is responsible? Of course, we are naturally afraid of the unknown, but why we hate, discriminate and judge? We are all human. No one is better than the other.

It makes me sad, disgusted, and even angry, when I see how people behave and talk in my area. Nowadays, desperate people, hardworking people, those who had to flee their countries from war, those who escaped extreme poverty, those who want better life for themselves and their children, and many other, those whom we should help, encounter incomprehension, hate or violence. I was born a white European. The feature, which is considered a privilege and something to be proud of by many. This shouldn't make one more important or better than the other. We don't choose this.

"I have met a refugee myself. He came to Turkey because of war in his country. He was an engineer before. But in Turkey he wasn't able to find a job because nobody wanted to give him any. He was making money by cleaning rooms. It would be much better if we would change this situation," said Gönül.

I remember a protest in Slovakia, not from a long time ago, when thousands of people went to the streets of the capital city, to protest refugees and migrants to

be accepted to our country. The Muslim family was passing by, while some of the protesters were screaming offensive words and even throwing stones at the family with small kids. One of them is a politician nowadays. We let neo-Nazis to sit in the parliament. They have gained eight percent of all votes in the parliamentary elections. And this is very disturbing. The worst about it is that it's not only happening in Slovakia. Europe is radicalizing. People are afraid of foreigners so much that they rather vote for the extremists, in hope that they will protect them. But why are they so afraid?

I would say that the most responsible in this case is the media. I worked for an online newspaper two years ago, and I remember being advised to focus more on negative stories, which attract people and get the higher reading rates. It's economically more efficient to write shocking, negative titles for the articles, which majority of readers won't read until the very end. Also, the gatekeeping process is essential in this case. While we hear about crimes and violence from the refugees and migrants, we hear almost nothing about their reasons, their stories, the violence explained and so on. Media portray migrants and refugees as numbers, as a danger, as something bad for us by giving us bad examples most of the time. The more negative the story is, the more

people will be interested in it.

Media forms the image of the refugees and migrants. They have a responsibility to inform in a non-biased, objective way. But money obviously smell better than sticking to the truth. Also, our education system teaches us who was an enemy in the history, but nothing about the positive features of different cultures. We are being taught how Ottomans occupied us, but we know nothing about Turkish traditions, art, poetry and so on.

Refugees and migrants can give us so much. Their culture, different perspectives, and approach, they can really comprehend to our development. Let's not be so obsessed about our nation, our country, our traditions, our, our, our, ... Yes, we should be proud about it, but accepting other cultures to our society will not destroy any of that. This just separates us and keeps us stuck in one place. We shouldn't be driven by fear. We are all human. Let's provide help to those who need it.



INEQUALITY: What Differs Us

by Lara Wolfs



In different places (countries, companies...) there are still inequalities in different shapes and forms. In my article, I would like to name some of them and explain why they are important to note.

There is still gender inequality in different countries but also in different companies. In some middle east countries gender inequality is still common. Women are considered less equal than men (ex: they can't work...). In some countries women want to get equal rights and try to protest it. There is also inequality of gender in some companies. Men employed in some of those get a higher salary for the same job than women and the most top managers are men. Just a few women.

Minorities and race inequality

In the world, there are still minorities and race inequality. In some companies, they won't employ people because of their race. This is against the law, but unfortunately it still happens in some places.

Inequality of liberty

Some crimes are not punished everywhere. Some people in different countries get other punishments (higher, different) than the same things someone could have done in another country. In some countries people even get punished for nothing (jail, payments, thrown out of the country...)

Inequality of status

Famous or rich people get more opportunities, advantages... than regular people. There are more and more gaps between

rich and poor people. So many people who go to social restaurants, who sleep in the streets.

Inequality of the income

In different poorer countries people get less payed for the same work they would do in another richer country.

Religion inequality

In some countries, it is hard to be a Muslim and mosques are not allowed. In other countries, it is hard to be Christian or a Jew. Still discrimination on religion unfortunately.

Consumption inequality

There is a difference of products in different countries. For example, In Slovakia the brand Nutella is of lower quality than in Germany. But it is still made by the same company.

Inequality of capabilities

Another example of the inequality is that in richer countries education is better than in poorer countries. In poorer countries, like ex Bangladesh, Syria, Africa..., diseases can't be treated well or people have to work and sleep in bad conditions.

All these inequalities unfortunately still exist in the world. In some places, it is even a serious problem.



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SO, ARE YOU A RACIST?

by *Maria Kovalenko*



Recent events in Europe and the rest of the world have made people discuss different topics amongst which *racism*. Racism can be described as the belief that people have certain characteristics based on their race, including social and biological traits. Furthermore, racism has more of a negative connotation rather than a positive one as it is the belief that some races are better than others solely because of their traits and therefore there should be a difference in the treatment. The following paragraphs discuss examples of racism, how and why it is applied and promoted, what it leads to as well as ways of minimizing it.

Racism nowadays can be seen in multiple cases and countries. The races it usually is directed towards include Arabs, African-Americans, in more rare cases Asians. However, it can also exist between different nationalities of the white race and be based on religion and national stereotypes, for instance. Examples of racism include a Lidl leaflet in the Czech Republic with an African-American model on the front cover instead of a white model. The photo of the African-American model was perceived negatively as the expectations and beliefs were that a “regular” model should be used. Another example is the heavy visa process for Turks and citizens of Arabic countries to enter in Europe, the United States and other countries. Yet another example are recruitment agencies in Belgium and the Netherlands which employ people for a short period of time on behalf of local companies. In some cases the recruitment agencies face the issue of being asked not to submit applications of job seekers from particular races or nationalities.

There are also examples of positive racism especially in Europe and in the United States. Racism is a sensitive topic and there are many who claim to be against it in order to avoid accusations. An example of positive racism is an

American company that included one African-American and one woman in a management board of eight people along with six white men. The image was meant to avoid any accusations of not supporting equality between races and gender while at the same time inequality was still applied.

Racism is a common topic of discussion. Even though there are organizations and individuals trying to minimize the negative attitude towards the maltreated races, the media and particular politicians either support or promote racism. The media often provides incomplete or twisted information that creates a negative image of the different races as well as fear of the new and unknown among the locals. Furthermore, there are countries like Slovakia, Bulgaria and others where political parties promote the image of “nationalism”. This is done by convincing people that different races change the economic and cultural situation for the worse and they should be kept out of a country, even if forceful actions are needed, to maintain stability and purity of the own culture. An example of such a party is ATAKA, a Bulgarian extremist nationalist political party, advocating the supremacy of Bulgarians over other ethnic and religious groups. ATAKA also has its own TV

program to promote its ideas and beliefs and therefore share it among the whole population without being contradicted.

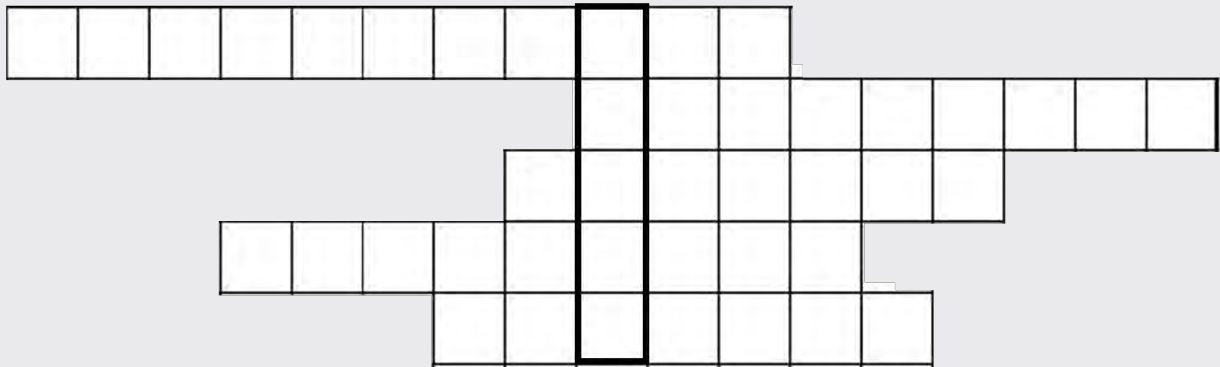
The result of creating separatism between people of different races has negative impact on both sides – locals of the white race and people of the other races. Separation is created and both are afraid of the other. Arabs and African-Americans become afraid of being unwelcome and abused only because of being different. At the same time people from the white race are afraid of the different cultural and religious traits that supposedly will lead to clashes and aggression, resulting in instability.

Racism has existed and will continue to exist as long as there are people to support it. However, there are ways to minimize the negative effects. One of the ways is that the media is encouraged to provide more information so that both sides are seen and perceived. Additionally, both media and governments can take care of informing and educating people of the specifics of culture and religion of the different races to avoid fear of the unknown and establish an environment of understanding, curiosity and empathy.

GAME

Please, add a missing word from the crossword to this sentence:

Collaboration is the way of achieveng succes



1. An act or instance of combining into an integral whole.
2. The condition of having or being composed of differing elements.
3. A person who flees for refuge or safety, especially to a foreign country, as in time of political upheaval, war, etc.
4. Sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own.
5. The characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.