

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



1 IN 5

PEOPLE HAVE
EXPERIENCED
DISCRIMINATION
THAT VIOLATES
INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
LAW

31.9

MILLION
PEOPLE
GLOBALLY ARE
REFUGEES—
THE HIGHEST
NUMBER EVER

50%

OF THE
WORLD'S
POPULATION IS
NOT COVERED
BY SOCIAL
PROTECTION
MEASURES

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Compassion implores us to see inequality as intersectional.

NOTICING

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated global income inequality. The richest 1% now controls up to 40% of global assets, while the poorest half owns just 1%. Developing countries are still sorely under-represented in global economic and financial decision-making bodies, like the UN General Assembly and the International Monetary Fund.

INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

Compassion implores us to ask: What do we want from economic growth? And for whom? Unjust patterns of inequality weaken the social fabric while also being a source of economic inefficiency and a driver of unsustainable environmental practices. Gender, race, ethnicity, migration, disability, and economic status intersect and multiply the burden of inequalities, which affects outcomes in education, income, health, and more.

TAKING ACTION

Responses to inequalities need to be [intersectional](#), seeing people, places, power, and the planet through a lens of compassion. Fair wages, social protection programs, and official development assistance all play powerful roles in achieving equality. As inequalities are often due to systemic issues, multi-stakeholder collaboration is necessary to successfully achieve this goal. One bold example of addressing inequalities is the decision by the city of Evanston, Illinois, USA to pay reparations to Black residents who suffered housing discrimination as a way to redress historical wealth gaps.



“YOUR LIVING CONDITIONS ARE MUCH MORE DETERMINED BY WHAT IS OUTSIDE YOUR CONTROL—THE PLACE, TIME, AND SKIN YOU ARE BORN INTO—THAN BY YOUR OWN EFFORT, DEDICATION, AND CHOICES YOU MAKE IN LIFE.”