

-Political statement C12

Proponent: NPA Youth for Solidarity

## **Inequality**

Inequality between rich and poor is becoming more and more pronounced every day. Today we witness that the rich are getting richer, while more and more people are slipping into poverty. Just 0.5% of the world population owns almost 40% of the world's wealth. This chasm between rich and poor has never been wider, and it is naturally having an undesirable impact on the structures and development of our society. The massive gap results in distrust between people and the authorities and constitutes a major cause of social and political conflicts, violence and flight. We do not consider the world is poor, but rather unfair. Inequality can be combated through an active policy for the fair distribution of power and resources.

It is people who change the world, and Norwegian People's Aid consider popular organisation as the most important means to oppose the ever-increasing inequality in the world. When people come together, the opportunity to come up with sustainable solutions inevitably arises. Collectively, people can stand up against the abuse of power, corruption and unfair distribution. In many countries restrictions are introduced to limit the opportunities of ordinary people to influence their society.

Norwegian People's Aid observe this problem globally and consider it necessary for the Norwegian government to seriously address this issue by promoting national and international policies for the fair distribution of power and resources. The Norwegian government has already given its backing to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, where the reduction of inequality in and between countries is a key feature; however, it is still not one of the overarching priorities in Norwegian development policy. Norwegian People's Aid believes that a policy for the fair distribution of power and resources is essential in the battle to eliminate poverty. We must move on from an outdated development policy, where the key objective is to reduce poverty. People need to live, not just survive.

We demand that:

- The objective of reducing inequality be given priority in Norwegian development policy, and that the government draw up a strategy to combat inequality.
- Norwegian development policy be altered to focus more clearly on the distribution of power and resources, and to put this high on the agenda.
- Norwegian development policy support people's opportunities to claim their rights, and to stand up against the abuse of power, corruption and unequal distribution.
- The Norwegian authorities take responsibility for working to ensure that strategic natural resources are used to benefit the people.