

## Social problems

**Social issues** are matters which directly or indirectly affect a person or many members of a society and are considered to be problems, controversies related to moral values, or both.

The needy – нуждающиеся

The poor - бедные

The miserable - нищие

Poverty/abject poverty/bitter poverty/grim poverty/grinding poverty/ - бедность; крайняя бедность; ужасная нищета; беспросветная бедность; тяжелая нужда;

To live in ..... poverty

Poverty-stricken - бедствующий

A neighbourhood that reeks of poverty – район неприкрытой нищеты

To be reduced to abject poverty – впасть в крайнюю нищету

To plunge smb into poverty – довести к-л до нищеты

To be thrown into poverty – впасть в нищету

To condemn smb to a life of poverty – обречь кого-то на жизнь в нищете

To be spurred by poverty to commit a crime – совершить преступление из-за нищеты

Homeless people

To commit suicide/to make away with one's life/to do (make) away with oneself/lay hands on oneself/put an end to one's life/take one's own life/end one's life/ shut one's lights out

Nursing homes/rest home/care home/senior centre – дом престарелых

To use/to recourse to corporal/physical punishment – использовать физическое наказание

To discipline one's children – воспитывать детей

Heavy-handed/rigid/severe/iron/strict/stern discipline – жесткая дисциплина

Loose/lack of discipline – разболтанная дисциплина, недостаток дисциплины

To keep/maintain/loosen/ensure/teach smb to discipline – сохранять, поддерживать, ослаблять, обеспечивать, приучать к-л к дисциплине

- A ..... addict/addiction/addictive/addicted to
- To suffer from/eliminate/fight discrimination
- To feel discriminated
- To discriminate against/in favor for smb – ущемлять интересы к-л, благоволить к-л
- Well-off/wealthy/well-heeled/affluent/prosperous/moneyed/silk-stocking(disapprovingly) - богатый
- come up from poverty to affluence – выйти из бедных в богатые

## Idioms

- All talk, no action – одни разговоры (You're all talk, no action – ты только говорить умеешь)

You're all talk, no action

You better stop this fooling around

You're all talk no action

You turn it up to cool me down (“All talk, no action” by Bon Jovi)

- To be at loggerheads with smb - не соглашаться, быть в натянутых отношениях с, пререкаться с к-л, ссориться, ругаться
- Better late than never – лучше поздно, чем никогда
- Born with a silver spoon in your mouth - born into wealth and privilege

Most of the students at the exclusive private college were born with silver spoons in their mouths.

- Down the drain - без пользы; без толку, как в прорву

pour money down the drain – зря тратить деньги

put smth down the drain - выкинуть

- Early bird catches the worm – кто рано встает, тому бог подает
- Last but not least - последний но не менее важный; Наконец, что не менее важно..
- No guts, no glory - Кто не рискует, тот не пьет шампанского
- Rags to riches - из грязи в князи (часто употребляется в выражении 'rags-to-riches story')
- Whole nine yards - всё (For you I'll go the whole nine yards. Для тебя я пойду на всё)
- as luck would have it - к счастью или к несчастью; как повезёт; как получится
- to be back to square one – начинать все сначала

Now that this chemical spill has wiped out the creek's salmon and trout populations we're back to square one. It's going to be very difficult to re-establish fish population. - придётся всё начинать сначала

- start from scratch - начинать с нуля; начать на голом месте; начать все с самого начала
- born yesterday – наивный, доверчивый; как будто только вчера на свет родился
- calm before the storm - затишье перед бурей
- last-ditch effort - последняя попытка
- look before you leap - семь раз примерь, один отрежь
- every dog has its day - будет и на нашей улице праздник
- cut to the chase - перейти к самой сути, если короче, ... (Well, to cut to the chase ... - Если короче, ...)
- I beg to differ - позволю себе не согласиться
- my two cents - мои пять копеек

часто используется в интернет-форумах и сопровождается небольшим дополнением к большому ответу на вопрос. Напр: Вставляю и свои пять копеек: That's just my two cent's

## Questions for discussion

- Are there food kitchens for the needy in your country?
- Are there homeless shelters in your country?
- Are there many homeless people where you live?
- Are there many suicides in your country?
- Are there nursing homes in your country?
- Do you agree that teachers should use corporal punishment as a means of discipline?
- Do you know anyone who is homeless?
- Do you think it's acceptable for parents to use corporal punishment as a means of discipline? Why/why not?
- Do you think people should be allowed to smoke in public buildings?
- Do you think that minorities should be given job priority because of their race? Why/why not?
- Have you ever been a volunteer at a hospital?
- Have you ever experienced discrimination?
- Have you ever known someone with an addiction?
- In an overpopulated world, should people be free to have as many children as they want?
- Is there assistance available to people that are homeless?

- Is there public assistance in your country?
- What are some expectations parents have for their children?
- What are some reasons people use illegal drugs?
- What are some reasons that people become homeless?
- What are some things people can do to eliminate discrimination and prejudice?
- What are some ways we can help homeless people?
- What do you think is the most serious problem in the world?
  - Why do you think so?
  - What can we do as individuals to solve this problem?
- What do you think when you see a homeless person?
- What types of noise pollution do you hate the most?
- Who takes care of the elderly when they are no longer able to care for themselves?
- Does poverty cause crime?
- Have you ever experienced discrimination on a personal level?
- What is racism?
- Graffiti is considered a social problem. Here are some related questions.
  - What is graffiti? Where do you see it? i.e. walls, trains
  - What messages do you see? i.e. political, love messages, funny, personal, poetic?
  - Should the government punish those who write graffiti?
  - Should the government reserve places for those who want to write graffiti?
  - Is graffiti a type of "art"?
  - If you were allowed to write something, what would you say?
  - What can we do about graffiti writers?
  - What are some ways we can wear words and slogans? i.e. badges, clothes, hats etc.
  - What should be done about football hooligans?
  - Is it morally right to spend a lot of money on pets, rather than helping people in need?

### **Sayings:**

The prevalent fear of poverty among the educated classes is the worst moral disease from which our civilization suffers. ~William James



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Love and business and family and religion and art and patriotism are nothing but shadows of words when a man's starving. ~O. Henry, *Heart of the West*, 1907

Affluence creates poverty. ~Marshall McLuhan

Hunger makes a thief of any man. ~Pearl S. Buck

There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.  
~Mahatma Gandhi

Ten out of ten people die, so don't take life too seriously

People spend a lifetime searching for happiness; looking for peace. They chase idle dreams, addictions, religions, even other people, hoping to fill the emptiness that plagues them. The irony is the only place they ever needed to search was within.  
--Ramona L. Anderson

Why is it that drug addicts and computer aficionados are both called users? --Clifford Stoll –

A moderate addiction to money may not always be hurtful; but when taken in excess it is nearly always bad for the health.  
--Clarence Day –

There is only one reason why men become addicted to drugs; they are weak men.

People who drink to drown their sorrow should be told that sorrow knows how to swim. --Ann Landers –

If a white man falls off a chair drunk, it's just a drunk. If a Negro does, it's the whole damn Negro race.  
~Bill Cosby

When we're unemployed, we're called lazy; when the whites are unemployed it's called a depression. ~Jesse Jackson

Laundry is the only thing that should be separated by color. ~Author Unknown

If you believe that discrimination exists, it will.

It is often easier to become outraged by injustice half a world away than by oppression and discrimination half a block from home.

He sees the speck in your brother's eye but fails to notice the beam in his own eye.

Not to see an inch beyond one's nose