

## “On Inequality”

Harry G. Frankfurt

“It is not important that everyone should have *the same*. What is morally important is that each should have *enough*.” (Frankfurt, Pg. 7)

“*Poverty* is general scarcity, dearth, or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possession or money. It is a multifaceted concept, which includes social, economic, and political elements.” (Wikipedia)

### On Inequality:

- Globally, 1% of the population owns all o the wealth.
- 70% of the population live in countries where inequality has increased.
- Tax breaks for the rich, and tax dodging by the rich.
- Cuts in welfare programs.

(\* These points consist statistics up to 2014\*)

### On Frankfurt:

- Inequality is not a moral issue. The morality is economic *sufficiency*.
- Economic equity and utility should not be compared.
- Your resources do not depend on the “magnitude of other people’s resources”
- Comparison of economic utility; *comparing wealth is a problem*.

### Key Terms:

*Doctrine of Sufficiency*

*Economic Egalitarianism*

*Utility of Money*

*Democracy*

*Inequality*

*Poverty*

*The Threshold Effect*

*Just-World Theory*

*Human Development Index*

*Gentrification*

1. Why does Frankfurt claim that economic egalitarianism is not a moral issue?
2. What is the connection between social justice, or social *inequality*, and economic inequality?
3. Do you believe social and political inequalities are derivative of economic inequalities, or the other way around? Why?
4. What are your thoughts on the gender gap as economic inequality?
5. What is the connection between Frankfurt's argument and the just-world theory?
6. Is there a connection between educational achievement and poverty? Is there a moral factor in educational achievement?
7. What should be done to increase awareness and knowledge of economic equality and sufficiency?
8. Can the process of *gentrification* be considered a morality?
9. What are your thoughts on welfare programs developed to supply economic opportunity to those in need?
10. In your opinion, what is more important: economic equality or economic sufficiency?