

Subjugation



"When you live in poverty, you are always under somebody's thumb."
- Activist, Boston



Disadvantaged Areas:

"You are stuck in a place. You don't choose or pick a place. It's chosen for you and you have to deal with it." - Activist, Gallup

Work- and Employment-Related Hardships:

"In our capitalist society people in poverty lose their value because they no longer produce wealth." - Practitioner, NYC

Voice and Participation:

"No voice, no access."
- Activist, Boston

Resources:

"The poorest get the worst."
- Activist, NYC

Social Isolation:

"People isolate us because of our poverty, and once you are isolated, you start to self-isolate." - Activist, Gallup

Health and Wellbeing:

"A sick child with rich parents is going to be better off than a child with poor parents. Health is an outcome of poverty." - Academic, Boston

Stigma and Shame:

"Here, in the U.S., who you are is defined by what you have. When you have not much, you are not much." - Activist, NYC

The Aggravators & The Constants

Racism:

"The racism and criminalization that occur in public spaces..."
- Activist, Oakland

Uncertainty:

"Any hiccup in your day will be bigger for someone in poverty than for someone not in poverty."
- Academic, Boston

Time:

"You die sooner."
- Activist, New Orleans

Social Identity:

"Being a white female from a rural area we're viewed as uneducated; our accent is an embarrassment for many."
- Practitioner, Appalachia

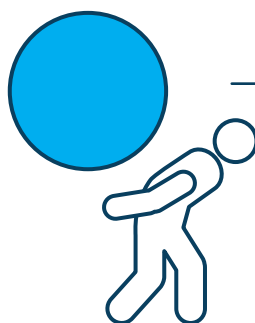
Hard Choices:

"You have to choose what's most important to pay for. The home, electric, water, come first and other material things come second."
- Activist, Gallup

Accumulation of Dimensions:

"Some of the problems that people may have may be solvable, but when there are so many issues, it is hard to use your problem solving skills."
- Activist, Gallup

The Struggle



"People will try to bring you down, but you still have something inside; that spark."
- Activist, Boston

Conclusion

Poverty is the product of interactions that limit freedom and choices for some. All of us create poverty whether we are aware of it or not. This means that poverty is not inevitable. All of us, together, can overcome it.

For readers who wish to explore this research in greater depth, a full report is available online at map.4thworldmovement.org.

THE ASPECTS OF POVERTY

Poverty is not just a component of individual or family circumstances. It is a complex byproduct of how our society is organized. First and foremost, poverty in the United States is shaped by features of our culture and values that create a structural process of subjugation.

None of the aspects of poverty identified here would be present without subjugation.

