

## **Food for All? Poverty and Food Insecurity in the U.S.**

According to the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, *“Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time.”* In other words, those who live in poverty face various issues such as homelessness, food insecurity and other injustices.

This paper will focus on the connection between poverty and homelessness. Researchers have found that poverty is “83%” of the cause of homelessness, which stems off of unemployment (American City). Even when people living in poverty are able to obtain jobs, in most cases individuals are severely underpaid. This gives workers less residual income to work with, causing those to choose between sacrificing food or shelter for the other and to face housing insecurity.

In London, the issue consists of poverty as well as the lack of unaffordable housing. In fact, unaffordable housing contributes to the growth of poverty. The reason housing is becoming so expensive is due to the increasing gentrification of towns and cities, as new buildings are being built and increasing property tax.

Despite the dire situation for far too many, there are some steps being taken in both countries to combat these issues. In the US, action most often takes the form of food banks or shelters that are run by employees of non-profit organizations and volunteers. In the UK, more governmental action is taken where some Mayors keep landlords in check and make sure they increase the quality of living in affordable housing. There are also programs that provide free meals for kids in families who are struggling to fund their schooling.

We are moving in the right direction, but there is still more to be done. If we want to truly help each other, we must come together and collaborate by taking action whether it is donating time or money. This paper will explore ways to be a more just society when it comes to poverty and homelessness.