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Human Rights

People in general think human rights violations only occur in impoverished countries or dictatorship countries. In those countries, wealth and power inequality create conflict between the upper class and lower class, and this clash is always due to human rights abuse which people cannot get fair pay and work equally. However, human rights abuse in those countries is just the tip of the iceberg. It also happens in a place that is called not only the land of freedom but also one of the wealthiest country, the United States. Although the right to work is the essential value for us to live in peace and harmony, the ruling class and the rich threaten to violate it.

First of all, human rights play an very important role in our real life, and the right to work is the most critical one. According to Wikipedia, “human rights are moral principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behavior and are regularly protected as natural and legal rights in municipal and international law.” human rights are the rights that complete us as a human. We all born with it until the day we died regardless of our religions, our countries, or our lifestyles. These rights include our freedom, justice, beliefs and so on. Meanwhile, the right to work is one the most important right to form a harmony society since we all are the bolts to the society machine. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.” Only when we are paid fairly, we can continue our jobs and live decently. Without fair pay from our jobs, we cannot afford our living, our education and our entertainment. All the ideologist, musician and artist will disappear. We live like a machine, only know how to work but have no soul or spirit.

Without the right to equal pay for equal work, our world is inhabitable. Before the 19th century, at the time we still have slave trade, humans could be sold, traded as goods on the market. People living in impoverished kingdoms or remoted island could be captured and sold back to wealth kingdom as a slave(Wikipedia). As a slave, they weren’t paid fairly at all, their owner can take most of their product and left them minimal to survive. For years, many of them could not afford food and basic living or support their children for any education. However, in the modern world, our rights are protected by laws. Because we are all equal, we can choose the way we live. With the protecting from human rights, we are all free from the slavery society. Although our society still cannot be fully equalities today because of power and wealth imbalance, we all born equal and free to achieve our goal with effort.

Although human rights have been a common understanding today, exploitation is used by the ruling class and the rich to violate our human rights. Exploitation is a way that the upper-class use to widen the wealth gap, making the rich even richer and the poor poorer. In Rigged, the author claims that “employers charge not just for truck leases but for a host of other expenses, including hundreds of dollars a month for insurance and diesel fuel.” Samuel Talavera, as one of the truck drive, gets only 0.67 dollars from one of his weekly paycheck after all the deductions form his company. The rich exploit most of their employees’ profits and left them almost nothing. For the long run, the rich will be richer, and the poor like Samuel Talavera will only get a very small profit from his job which can barely supports his living or even not. People who can not get fair pay from their job will eventually stop working and rebel, evoking the conflict between the rich and the poor, making our society uninhabitable.

Last but not the least, human right violations are happening in our country, and the poor, immigrants and the uneducated are easy to be the target. As Brett Murphy claim, port trucking companies in southern California have been exploiting the drivers for years, charging them an unaffordable debt, taking their trucks when they left their jobs. Since most of the truck drivers are uneducated, who barely speak English and be in their late age, they cannot afford to leave their job. Their families see them as a ghost, who have to work almost 20 hours a day 6 days a week. Even on their only day off, they have to spend a whole full day to catch up lacking of sleep. Their company not only severely exploit them but also make them work like a machine, making them less human. To better protect those vulnerable groups, enforcing the principle of equal pay for equal work is critical. Only when we all, especially the ruling class and the rich, protect and follow the human rights, our society can be much inhabitable and harmonious.

After all, human rights, as the most fundamental right, are the critical part to complete us a human. Perhaps there is no absolute equality since we all born in different original family, choosing a different way to live our lives. However, enforcing human rights is the best way to make our world more equality and fairness. In human history, countless people died making the human rights improve. After so many years, thirty principles of human rights finally come all together as worldwide common rules. We have to do our best to protect it and enforce it with all the effort.

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