Health and social problems are worse in more unequal countries

Index includes:
- Life expectancy
- Maths & literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homicides
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness (inc. drug and alcohol addiction)
- Social mobility

Child wellbeing is better in more equal countries

Source: UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 13: *Fairness for Children*
Inequality is bad for business, bad for the economy, bad for our democracies, and bad for society. It is a political choice, not an economic necessity.

I look forward to working with John McDonnell to help him re-write the rules so that we achieve shared prosperity.

Things cannot go on like this.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ
NOBEL-WINNING ECONOMIST
What World Leaders are saying…

Income inequality is the “defining challenge of our time”. “…rising inequality and declining mobility are also bad for our families and social cohesion – we…trust our institutions less (and) trust each other less when there’s greater inequality. And greater inequality is associated with less mobility between generations.” President Barak Obama, 4th Dec 2013

“Inequality is the root of social ills.” Pope Francis, 24th Nov 2013

“…the economics profession (has) downplayed inequality for too long. Now all of us have a better understanding that a more equal distribution of income allows for more economic stability, more sustained economic growth, and healthier societies with stronger bonds of cohesion and trust.” Christine Lagarde, Director, IMF, 23rd Jan 2013

“Social and economic inequalities can tear the social fabric, undermine social cohesion and prevent nations from thriving. Inequality can breed crime, disease and environmental degradation and hamper economic growth.” Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, 9th July 2013
THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Lifebelow Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals
Cuernavaca, Mexico
‘Armed Response’ - Pretoria, South Africa.
There is less social mobility in countries with bigger income difference.

Corak (2013); World Bank 2013. The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution
School bullying is much more common in more countries with bigger income differences.

11-year-olds in 37 countries ($r = .62$)

Economic democracy:-

- “turns companies from being pieces of property into communities”
- reduces pay ratios within companies
- transforms the experience of work
- redistributes wealth & reduces unearned income
- improves productivity
- is more socially & environmentally responsible

Boards can include employee, community and consumer representatives
Employee Ownership Association

The voice of co-owned business

Cooperativa Italia
L'impresa in armonia
Con il futuro

ARUP

the Phone Co-op
your voice counts

Cooperatives

2012 International Year of

John Lewis

Mondragon

Humanity at work

Finance
Industry
Distribution
Knowledge

Cafédirect

Fresh ground coffee
Made the small way

Tullis Russell
Papermakers

Divine Chocolate

Employee owned

Employee Ownership Top 100

Owned & Operated by our employees

NCBO The National Center for Employee Ownership
How to expand the democratic sector (employee owned companies, coops, mutuals)

- Stronger legislation for employee representation on company boards
- Government loans for employee buyouts
- Tax concessions for democratic businesses
- Take your custom to the democratic sector
- If each year 2% of company shares were transferred to an employee controlled trust, they would be majority shares holders in 25 years
The Spirit Level
Why Equality is Better for Everyone
Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett

‘A big idea, big enough to change political thinking’ Sunday Times
‘A sweeping theory of everything’ Guardian

A CONVENIENT TRUTH
A BETTER SOCIETY FOR US AND THE PLANET
by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett
Fabian Ideas 638