

Helsinki is Neglecting the Youth Migrating From the Country-side

– By Veijo Baltzar –

This time I would like to direct attention towards the conditions minorities face and for once I don't mean the Roma minority. I am of the opinion that Helsinki is neglecting those who have moved into the city from the country-side, both young and old. It is a disparity that needs to be corrected as soon as possible. This is a question of whether those who move into the city and apply a strong work ethic should have the same rights as those born here.

I am of the opinion that it would be a large loss for our country if any group that makes up our population were discriminated against. Those who are subjected to such treatment cannot make an effort to develop themselves since they are placed in a situation which makes such development impossible.

It is obvious that the majority has the opinion of "why didn't they just stay in the country-side?" I could answer that those in the country-side need bread just as much as those here in the city. The state of our country will not improve if we let any group of citizens lag behind – everyone should have the same opportunities. It is a shame that this isn't the case nowadays.

Older gentlemen

I like to believe that these inconveniences are caused by the old, respected gentlemen who are in control. Older gentlemen who hold high positions and handle many services at the same time yet can't manage one of them properly.

Another cause is surely that these gentlemen have for quite some time now left their youth behind them and forgotten what it is like to live a life in which one is only distressed. For several decades they have not had to identify with any kind of need.

Therefore, they cannot effectively provide assistance to those who seriously need it in today's society.

In any case it is those who live in need and without a stable future who severely struggle to care for themselves. The entirety of their time is taken up by the fight for their daily bread, which leaves them without a chance to develop themselves. There isn't any time left over to cultivate their interests. It is detrimental to the entirety of society if a category of its inhabitants show no interest in development, let alone anything at all.

300 marks a month

I had a short conversation with a woman of 20. She works as a shop assistant. She spoke. - I earn three hundred marks a month. Of my monthly wages, one hundred and fifty marks goes towards a room which I share with another girl; the full rent of the room is also three hundred marks. For the one hundred and fifty I am then left with I need to afford food for the entire month, on top of that my clothes. Furthermore, I have to take care of my hygiene, since it is important while working in a store that one is somewhat attractive.

I asked her if she would like to study, for example, during the evenings. – Of course I would if I only had the chance. But with the circumstances in which I am living now it is hard to find interest in anything. This is not a dignified life, my nerves tend to get the better of me. It is clear that it is hard work, especially since we are not allowed a usual lunch break throughout the entire day.

Buildings for rent

We ended our discussion there. Is it not about time we began to show a little more attention towards these people who live under such conditions? Specifically, housing conditions need to improve, and on top of that, one should have the opportunity to realise their natural interests. Above all else they should be given the opportunity to grow these interests.

Housing should be affordable even for those who are less fortunate and an effort to establish housing-based support should be introduced so that no one would need to spend the entirety of their wages on rent. Most importantly, the building of rental apartments and not stock apartments should not be so expensive that no one can afford to buy them.

Training

Further education is also of equal importance and should have more attention paid to it. I am of the opinion that too much is neglected. The city throws money at swimming pools and such but when it is a question of whether to help those who need it, the question is met with a blank no. It becomes a case that is only investigated on paper and paper alone.