

Social Problems

Warm-Up

What are some of the social issues in the news lately?

Vocabulary Challenge

homeless — the state of not having a home

response — answer or reaction to something

universal — for everyone

racism — discrimination based on someone's race

heroin — drug that is legal in some countries but not others

Idioms and Phrases

social safety net, homeless people, universal basic income, nursing home, illegal drugs

There are many supporters of a _____ for all Canadians.

My grandmother just moved into a _____.

I wish there were a better _____ in my country. There are just so many poor people who are struggling.

Lots of _____ live near the train station in my city.

Some people think that some _____ should be legalized.

Let's Talk!

1. Does your country have a strong or weak "social safety net?"
2. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes to have more services for people that need help?
3. What do you think about the response of your country to Covid-19?
4. Is homelessness a problem in your country?
5. What do you think when you see a homeless person?
6. What are some of the reasons why someone might become homeless?
7. What are your thoughts about a universal basic income for everyone?
8. Is racism a problem in your country?
9. What are the attitudes towards older people in your country?
10. Do older people generally live with children or in places like nursing homes?
11. What kinds of drugs are legal and illegal in your country?
12. What are some reasons that people use illegal drugs?
13. Do you think that some drugs like marijuana should be decriminalized?
14. Do you think the police generally do a good job maintaining order in a fair, peaceful way in your country?

Writing Prompts

- A. My country has a good social safety net. Do you agree or disagree?
- B. The government should provide housing for all homeless people. Do you agree with this?
- C. Illegal drugs should be made legal. Do you agree or disagree?