

Quotations

This resource includes quotations regarding homelessness, unemployment, education, health, life skills, and domestic violence.

Homelessness

- “One other thing that was really reinforced for me, after hearing so many people's stories, was just how fragile our existences really are. ... for those without much of a safety net, it's frighteningly easy to end up on the street.” –photographer Bear Guerra, whose “(In)Visible Project” examines the homeless of San Diego¹
- “A lot of the public see homelessness, particularly among young people, as a choice. But when you think about what the home environment means to them, you can see why a lot of these young people will prefer living on the streets to living in a place where they are abused or neglected.” –Dr. Guy Johnson of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute at RMIT, co-author of a report on the hospital usage of the homeless²
- "People who are homeless are not social inadequates. They are people without homes." –Sheila McKechnie, former director of Shelter, a British NGO concerned with aiding the homeless³
- "Understanding homelessness is a necessary step to ending it, especially for those persons living with a chronic condition such as mental illness, an addiction or a physical disability.” –former HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson⁴
- "I'm afraid of dying real young. I'm afraid of living on the street—wouldn't have any food and would have to beg for money." –a 7-year-old homeless girl, when asked her fears as part of a project conducted by One Childhood Lasts a Lifetime⁵
- “We have come dangerously close to accepting the homeless situation as a problem that we just can't solve.” –Linda Lingle, former Governor of Hawaii⁶

Employment

- “The shock of unemployment becomes a pathology in its own right.” –Robert Farrar Capon, Episcopal priest and author ⁷

¹ http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/credentialed/article_7f7717a4-d8e7-11e0-9382-001cc4c002e0.html

² <http://theconversation.edu.au/study-shows-high-public-cost-of-homelessness-3059>

³ http://www.changingthepresent.org/homeless_and_housing/quotes

⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2007/02/28/us-homeless-usa-report-idUSN2722298120070228>

⁵ <http://www.seattlepi.com/default/article/Book-gives-homeless-kids-chance-to-tell-their-1091810.php>

⁶ <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/homeless.html>

- “Unemployment is not charity. It is a critical part of the safety net to help families who, through no fault of their own, find themselves without a job.” – Laura Hall, reporter⁸
- ““In a sense, every time someone's laid off now, they need to start all over. They don't even know what industry they'll be in next.” –Gary Burtless, labor economist at the Brookings Institution⁹
- “...long bouts of unemployment provoke long-lasting changes in behavior and mental health.”—Don Peck, author of *Pinched: How the Great Recession Has Narrowed Our Futures and What We Can Do About It*¹⁰
- “Joblessness of this magnitude and duration harms individuals, destroys families, and is corrosive to communities.” -- David R. Jones, president of the Community Service Society of New York, on the prevalence of joblessness in New York City in 2006¹¹
- “[E]xcluding the unemployed [is] becoming business as usual.”-- Christine Owens, executive director of the National Employment Law Project¹²

Education

- “Nowhere is it more important than education to put politics last.”—Michelle Rhee, former Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools¹³
- “A human being is not attaining his full heights until he is educated.”—Horace Mann, early American education reformer¹⁴
- “[T]he biggest obstacle to education is poverty.”—U.N. Millennium Goals Development Report, 2010¹⁵
- “When we think of the majority of people as being qualified to achieve at all levels, it changes the nature of work and society and has profound

⁷ Capon, Robert Farrar. "Being Let Go," *New York Times*, 5 August 1984

⁸ Hall, Laura. "Unemployment is a lifetime for hard working people." *Speakin' Out News* [Huntsville, Ala] 4 Mar. 2009.

⁹ Peck, Don. "Unemployment Will Severely Shortchange the Next Generation" *Unemployment*. Greenhaven Press, 2011.

¹⁰ Peck, Don. "Unemployment Will Severely Shortchange the Next Generation" *Unemployment*. Greenhaven Press, 2011.

¹¹ Jones, David R. "The Urban Agenda to Combat Joblessness." *New York Amsterdam News* [New York, N.Y] 23 Feb 2006.

¹² Cohen, Adam. "Jobless Discrimination? When Firms Won't Even Consider Hiring Anyone Unemployed." *Time*. 23 May 2011. <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2073520,00.html>

¹³ Rhee, Michelle. "Education Can Help People out of Poverty." *How Can the Poor Be Helped?* Ed. Jennifer Dorman. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2011. At Issue. *Gale Opposing Viewpoints In Context*. Web. 5 Sep. 2011.

¹⁴ http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_education.html

¹⁵ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf#page=18>

implications for education.” –Dr. Reginald Wilson, senior scholar at the American Council on Education¹⁶

- “[A]major American commitment to achieving universal education would give millions of poor children more hope and greater opportunities for choosing constructive futures.” – Gene Sperling, director of the Forum on Universal Education at the Brookings Institution¹⁷
- “In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity--it is a prerequisite.”—U.S. President Barack Obama in his 2009 State of the Union address¹⁸

Health

- ““This public health crisis will not be ameliorated until housing and health care become a fundamental right for every human being.” --Dr. James O'Connell, president of Health Care for the Homeless¹⁹
- "Each year the economic cost of untreated mental illness is staggering — over \$100 billion on untreated mental health disorders and \$400 billion on addiction disorders”—U.S. Representative John Sullivan²⁰
- ““The issue in the health care debate is not quality of medical care, but rather cost and coverage.” –Peter Kirsanow, a member of the National Advisory Committee of Project 21, and African-American leadership group²¹
- “Poverty, lack of access to health care, poor sanitation, unsafe water, and a lack of proper hygiene all contribute to the expanding impact of infectious diseases.” ²² --Margaret A. Hamburg, commissioner of the US Food and Drug Association

¹⁶ Morgan, Joan. “Dr. Reginald Wilson: Education is His Motivating Force.” *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, 10(25). 10 Feb.1994: 28.

¹⁷ Sperling, Gene. “Educating the World.” *The New York Times* 22 Nov. 2001.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/11/22/opinion/educating-the-world.html>

¹⁸ http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Barack_Obama_Education.htm

¹⁹ http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20040413/homeless_harsh_040413?hub=EdmontonHome

²⁰ Kingsbury, Kathleen. “Tallying Mental Illness’ Costs.” *Time* 9 May 2008.

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1738804,00.html>

²¹ Faryna, Stan. “The Health Care Ghetto.” [New Voice of New York, Inc](#) [Jamaica, N.Y] 12 Oct 1994: 4.

²² Margaret A. Hamburg et al. "Infectious Diseases Are a Threat to America and the World." *Epidemics*. Ed. David Haugen and Susan Musser. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2011. *Opposing Viewpoints*. *Gale Opposing Viewpoints In Context*. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

- “Vaccines have the power not only to save, but also to transform, lives – giving children a chance to grow up healthy, go to school, and improve their life prospects. When vaccines are combined with other health interventions ... immunization becomes a major force for child survival.”²³ --World Health Organization, in its *State of the world's vaccines and immunization*

Life Skills

- “Improving basic financial education at the elementary and secondary school level is essential to providing a foundation for financial literacy that can help prevent younger people from making poor financial decisions that can take years to overcome.”-- Alan Greenspan, former Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board²⁴
- “It's not just knowing the information. It's knowing how to find the answers to the questions that is the basis of critical thinking.” –Ellen Galinsky, author of "Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs" and president of the Families and Work Institute²⁵
- “Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life, is essential to development and health, and opens the way for democratic participation and active citizenship.”—Kofi Annan, former U.N. Secretary-General²⁶

Domestic Violence

- “Domestic violence causes far more pain than the visible marks of bruises and scars. It is devastating to be abused by someone that you love and think loves you in return.”—U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein²⁷
- “Domestic violence is a criminal matter and needs to stay in criminal court, ... Too often, judges see charges of domestic violence as a ploy to get custody and send the case to family court.” –Catherine Campbell, who filed a discrimination suit in Illinois regarding her child custody case²⁸
- “Nobody believes that domestic violence kills and nobody believes it is detrimental to children. This world has got to wake up. ... Batterers should not have rights to children.” –Denise Brown, sister of Nicole Brown, regarding the custody case with

²³ *State of the world's vaccines and immunization*, 3rd ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009. whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563864_eng.pdf

²⁴ <http://dpi.state.wi.us/cte/pdf/pflchap3.pdf>

²⁵ Parker-Pope, Tara. "School Curriculum Falls Short on Bigger Lessons." *New York Times* 6 Sept. 2011: D5(L). *Gale Opposing Viewpoints In Context*. Web. 9 Sep. 2011.

²⁶ <http://www.betterworld.net/quotes/literacy-quotes.htm>

²⁷ http://en.thinkexist.com/reference/domestic_violence_quotes/

²⁸ http://en.thinkexist.com/reference/domestic_violence_quotes/

O.J. Simpson²⁹

- “The effects of abuse are devastating and far-reaching”—Sandra Pupatello, Canadian politician and former Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues³⁰
- “We can all take responsibility for helping to bring about change, and keeping our friends and colleagues safe from domestic violence.” —Charles Clarke, former UK Home Secretary ³¹
- “[B]etween 15–71% of women reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.”—World Health Organization³²

²⁹ http://en.thinkexist.com/reference/domestic_violence_quotes/

³⁰ http://en.thinkexist.com/reference/domestic_violence_quotes/

³¹ http://en.thinkexist.com/reference/domestic_violence_quotes/

³² <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/index.html>