

The City of Hidden People

By Mark Jackson

There exists a hidden city, but before we conjure a picture of what we generally understand as a city we must realise this is a city that spans all what we generally regard as cities, both nationally and internationally. We are talking a metaphorical city which is practically global, but has a commonness that brings it unity.

We are talking about those who are without abode. Quite often this is without choice but by circumstance beyond the individual's control, such as the financial crash in 2009 where many people lost the houses they had been investing their income in, as per agreement by the respective banks, the banks who were the real criminals but also the ones who got the Government's support, leaving such individual without anything – home, job, possessions, etc.

Such individual's ended up being forced to sleep rough on the streets; it wasn't like there was a choice, but was this really their fault? No, they followed 'The System' but got screwed by Corporate Capitalism, effectively raping them of all they had and leaving them at the very very bottom of society, if that demographical area can even be called society. Those banks who miss-sold mortgages and loans however, got Governmentally bailed out and still operate legitimately. Was that the right thing to do? Your opinion is what you are entitled to.

So, now we have many more people having to exist rough sleeping on the streets. It's a very obvious reality, especially if you take a walk in city centres. These people didn't choose to be there and live like that, it was forced. Now we have both local councils and central Government choosing action to effectively remove these people by reducing what can be slept upon as well as deportation to other places. Not what sensible and compassionate humans would think of as fair.

The immediate issue for us, 'the common people', is that we see these unfortunate individuals in our everyday lives, not what 'the privileged' who instated this problem have to face. These such unfortunate people are desperate to try and get by, all they are really doing is trying to survive, and on the most limited resources you can possibly imagine.

So yes, they beg for loose change outside supermarkets and cashpoints, some may go further and choose crime of one flavour or another, and given how stressful and unhappy their existence has been made it's not surprising it's not uncommon to find them use drugs, including alcohol (which is certainly also a drug despite most people's 'blind eye'), just so they can numb the pain they are forced to live all day, every day.

And what do we do? We can't do much at all given this needs a governmental complete change of attitude. Where we can we may spare some change, or buy a bit of food to give. But on the whole, we are so precariously balanced within 'The System' ourselves, we have to turn a blind eye, pretend it's not such the problem that it is, and choose not to see the homeless problem even when it's presented to us as the real people we pass in the streets.

That's not out fault per se, it's the bad people who orchestrate society.