



Addressing Social Injustices

24 June 2022

Interested in addressing a potential social injustice today?

Social injustices exist everywhere in the world to some degree. There is no “paradise” or “utopia” on the face of the earth. If you hear of one...Scoff it.

For the realists in the crowd, you may have some interest in addressing and maybe even solving some injustices. You may be wondering about what is going on in the world and why it seems confusing as to what is happening and why/how things are progressing. Maybe you just want some things solved. Well...

How do you go about that? Is there a good way? What works or does not work historically? Great questions. Let's address it using something I developed called “The 5 D's of Addressing Social Injustice” - Hang on!

1. Define the problem. The first thing you must do is research the issue and determine...”What is the real issue?” Here, you must truly define a SPECIFIC issue. Pick an issue that is too broad and it will be like shooting a grizzly with birdshot. It's just going to upset the bear and you'll get eaten. Pick a specific problem and you'll usually be more successful.

- Failing to define a problem accurately will result in a flawed methodology overall and wasted energy. Spend time here to develop a problem statement such as...

“_____ is a social injustice that must be addressed.” This should be one to two words or a short phrase at most.

2. Determine the scope of the problem. How widespread is the issue? Do extensive, full-spectrum RESEARCH on THE problem. If you allow your research to wonder too much, that's ok at first. Take notes on potential future lines of effort and related issues that may help you, but return to the previously picked issue to truly determine “how big of a problem is this?” Try to lose your bias and address facts. Social injustices are often emotional issues. That is normal and expected, but if you allow this to guide your research too much, you WILL over or underestimate the scope of the problem and your follow on steps will be flawed.

- The problem statement can now be updated with increased fidelity...



“ _____ is a social injustice that has existed for _____ decades and directly effects _____ people annually within the nation/state of _____.” (Just an example)

Once you have done both Steps 1 and 2, you have now figured out “Point A” in this journey.

3. Decide what “success” looks like. If you could snap your fingers and the problem would be solved right now...What would that look like? What are the intended second and third order effects? What are the potential negative aspects of your solution? Are you creating other problems with your instant solution or making other smaller problems larger? Use your friends and people you trust to help you here.

Remember...Solving a problem for one person or group may create even worse problems for another group - but, hopefully not. In summation, this step forces you to decide where and what “Point B” is and what “right looks like.” It also helps you chart progress.

- Here, a solution statement may be helpful...For example...“While _____ is a social injustice that has existed for _____ decades and directly effects _____ people annually within the nation/state of _____, using a unified and dedicated effort, we can realistically reduce/eliminate this issue...”

4. Develop a plan. If you know where Point A is and you have a good idea of Point B’s characteristics...You must now develop a plan. This plan usually utilizes differing lines of efforts that all contribute to the overall solution. Selecting too few lines of effort will degrade your likelihood of success. Selecting too many spreads resources and may also degrade the probability of finding a solution. You must pick things that you can do and/or affect comprehensively and holistically. Spend a LOT of time developing and troubleshooting the plan. Hint: Your first plan will not be the successful one - you will need several iterations. Be patient and don’t become emotionally attached to the plan



- Now we enter the plan into the statement “While _____ is a social injustice that has existed for _____ decades and directly effects _____ people annually within the nation/state of _____, using a unified and dedicated effort, we can realistically reduce/eliminate this issue by _____, _____, and _____.”

- This well thought out statement now become the marketing campaign, bumper sticker, elevator speech, talking points, etc...But, how/who does all that? Great point.



5. Designate a leader. While this may be you, every instance of actually solving a social injustice revolves primarily around a single leader. When you hear the names Lincoln, MLK, Ghandi, Mandela, Mother Theresa, and so many others, you usually think of their role in addressing a social injustice. There are several reasons for this.
- A single leader allows the messaging to be cohesive and accurate.
 - The absence of a leader means the messaging will be hijacked by the mob.
 - The mob always degrades in a negative direction and neuters the problem, the plan, and the potential solution.
 - Lack of a single leader shows lack of unity and “decision paralysis” when decisions regarding the plan and the goals change.
 - Good leaders help the movement maintain a focus and a sense of professional competence to the issue.
 - While no 1 person solves these types of things solo - the LEADER is the face of the movement and can unify various factions that will develop along the way.

SUMMARY: In light of current events, we must look at successful campaigns of the past and note how so many current campaigns fall short or have thus far proven ineffective. When movements don't...

1. Define the problem
2. Determine the scope
3. Decide on success
4. Develop a plan
5. Designate a leader

...They usually don't work and often cause more harm than good.

Hope this helps either those “looking for answers” and/or those leading these efforts.



Strength and Honor - Lance

