

## The one per cent

Social mobility and equality are worsening across the world and are expected to continue declining over the medium-term. Differences in income inequality are being accentuated by wealth inequality. Capital and assets are currently highly unevenly owned in most countries. The richest [1% globally are forecast to own 65% of all wealth by 2030](#). Since the crash of 2008, the wealth of the richest 1% has been growing by 6% a year - double that of the rest of the population.

[A Jan 2021 report from the High Pay Centre](#) claims that pay for top CEOs today is about 120 times that of the typical UK worker. Estimates suggest it was around 50 times at the turn of the millennium or 20 times in the early 1980s.

The result is a widening of social and health outcomes, with children from the poorest communities having significantly lower life expectancies than those from more affluent areas. The social and economic consequences include a growing sense of unfairness, precariousness, perceived loss of identity and dignity, weakening social fabric, eroding trust in institutions, disenchantment with political processes, and an erosion of the social contract. This is both a moral and an economic issue which risks increasing instability, corruption and poverty. It is possible that further polarisation of communities will deepen social tensions. [Some link](#) the increase in public protest around world with rising inequality and high costs of living.

As [Christine Lagarde said while IMF chief until recently](#): "Reducing excessive inequality is not just morally and politically correct, but it is good economics."