

The future state of homelessness by Courtney Smith

The stories of the homeless are always valid

Unemployment, social injustice, mental illness, poverty, substance abuse...

Much of the public approach with feelings of apprehension

Deeply ingrained misconceptions, skewed perceptions

And yet, despite such complexities in causes

It can afflict any of us at any given time

This gravely misrepresented community — we are not immune from such a life

Homelessness: a global human rights crisis

A pandemic continues to grow, posing an array of risks for the unsheltered

A vulnerable population, co-existing health conditions, increased exposure

It's a ticking time bomb

And yet much of society turns a blind eye

So I ask — why?

Amidst the pandemic threat

The homeless must not be forgotten

We all deserve a safe space, a place to call home

In the future

If the appropriate measures are implemented

Perhaps, as Australians, we can fix this broken system

We are equipped with the resources to assist and support

Career pathways, affordable housing, mental health services

Thus, together, I urgently implore others to listen and cultivate compassion

And to avoid complicity