

What is justice? What does justice mean? According to the Oxford dictionary, justice is the quality of being fair and reasonable. By that definition, we should be able to see “justice” being done in many areas of our lives. But justice is elusive for many people who live in Orange County. One area which is rife with injustice is the homelessness issue. As claimed by OCregister.com, in Orange County alone, close to 7,000 residents have no place to call home. The injustice of this situation continued when the lawmakers of Orange County created a plan to build nonpermanent shelters for the homeless, but that plan, later on, was scrapped by the Orange County Supervisors claiming the plan came together too quickly to be implemented.

The state decided to pay for 30-day stays at motels for about 700 homeless people in Santa Ana. While those people stayed there, supervisors planned to have those people transferred to shelters, but as the 30th-day was approaching, they still had no idea where those people would stay afterward--and thus, they went back onto the street because of the County's inaction. And the problem is just as bad in my own city of Anaheim, where homelessness abounds. Anaheim has amazing schools that provide a fantastic education, but it's a very expensive place to live in. This leads to homelessness when people are paid low wages and housing is far too expensive to afford.

As stated by Centerforjobs.org, California is the richest state in the country. So why isn't our governor paying more attention to the homeless? Two solutions to the problem would be passing a liveable minimum wage law and investing in building a lot more affordable housing.

We live in the wealthiest state, which by contrast, has an excessive poverty rate. This injustice towards the poor and destitute must not stand! It's extremely unfair that many of the people who have no home are where they are now mainly because of the lack of affordable

homes and the companies, for example, McDonald's or Walmart that make huge amounts of money but still pay some of their workers a low amount of it. How is that fair to the workers? We need to take action now! Before the number of homeless people in Orange County raises. So, what can we, citizens of Orange County do as a community to achieve justice for the homeless? We need to first off, bring more awareness to this unjust issue.

We can post about it on huge platforms such as Facebook, being the number one biggest social media platform as the website [Influencemarketinghub.com](http://Influencemarketinghub.com) has stated, some other large platforms are Instagram, Twitter, and Tumblr, but if anybody has another social media platform that they use, bring awareness on there too! Everything we post informing others about this counts, whether it was posted on a small platform, or if only a small amount of people saw it, it truly counts. The second thing we should do is to write letters to the CEO's of companies that pay workers poorly, I mentioned two already but two more are Sprouts Farmers Market, and Sears, and let them know how we feel, but not only that, we should also include in our letters information about how many people are homeless in Orange County, and, using a reliable source on the average amount of money needed to afford a house or an apartment, tell them how much money they should be paying their workers. Indeed.com shows a rating for Sears that 9,754 employees took, only 47% think that they are being paid fairly. Again, 9,754 employees added their ratings, that's almost 10,000 people! Cashiers are only paid a mere \$9.66 per hour, and Retail Sales Associates are paid \$12.26 per hour. Why isn't it a higher pay such as \$15 an hour? The average rent in Orange County is \$2,083 according to [Rentcafe.com](http://Rentcafe.com). So, if employees at Sears want a median-priced home, they need to get a second job. And that's the same thing for many other jobs like the ones I mentioned. There are cheap apartments under \$1,000 of course,

but they aren't as nice as other houses. However, in these future letters, we must stay mature and professional, we must not act irrationally, but instead, logically. We must solely state facts and give reasonable opinions. We should also send letters to our president, the members of congress, and maybe other government officials. If California becomes more expensive, then citizens will begin to leave, which would affect our economy, and companies because barely any people will buy their products. Our state will begin to decline. And if we do more research and discover other important facts about our soon-to-be declining state and add that, our letters will be more powerful and could have CEO's and the government thinking more about this injustice, and about our economy. That is worth mentioning in these letters. The third thing we should do is protest or we should make petitions. We need to make sure everyone hears about this. Protesting in front of freestanding stores like the ones I've mentioned is a great place to protest. Protesting on the sidewalk with many stores alongside it is also a great place to protest as grand amounts of people will see it, and some might take an interest in this issue. Making petitions is fairly simple. It may be done online, or on paper. One website that allows us to create petitions is [Petitions.whitehouse.gov](https://petitions.whitehouse.gov), they call themselves We the People and they state that using their website, all we must do is create a petition online, repost it and show it to others, and then receive signatures. If our petitions receive 100,000 signatures in 30 days, then We the People will re-examine them and ensure that policy experts will see it and will respond with a proper reply.

Doing at least one of these ideas will help majorly. Let's all work together to change our laws! So after what you've learned, will you work with the community to make our laws equitable for the homeless in Orange County?