

INTRODUCTION TO A SMALL ESSAY ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

When we speak of workers' rights, we cannot escape the conversation about social justice. We say that it is the crucial, most noble, yet precisely for that reason, the most abstract objective of labour law. However, even when we discuss various ideologies, especially in light of the century behind us, which largely shaped the world we live in today, we cannot avoid this topic, as much as we try to do so. The same is true in regard to conflicts, and even the greatest of crimes. In their background, there are always relations of power and powerlessness, colored by the idea of a certain justice and the question of what justifies inequality, and to what extent we may guarantee equality, once we recognize that equality is not sameness.

In fact, upon closer reflection, there is almost nothing we can discuss without the concept of social justice being present – if not explicitly, then at least implicitly. And that is precisely why we speak of social (in)justice, though not always explicitly, even when our favorite coffee gets more expensive while on our way to the café, we pass people on the sidewalk begging for change; when someone else earns more than us despite our conviction that we invest more labour or knowledge; but also, when, out of fear of a completely unipolar world, we analyze global power relations.

Guided by these reflections, we have dedicated this issue to social justice. The articles included in this issue do not offer a single answer to the question of what social justice is, nor does such an answer exist. Instead, each of them represents a contribution to a collective reflection, a small part of what is, we hope, a greater essay on social justice.

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UVOD U MALI TRAKTAT O SOCIJALNOJ PRAVDI

Kada govorimo o pravima radnika, ne možemo pobeći od razgovora o socijalnoj pravdi. Kažemo da je ona ključni, najuzvišeniji, ali upravo stoga i najapstraktniji cilj radnog prava. Međutim, i kada govorimo o različitim ideologijama, posebno u svetlu veka koji je ostao iza nas, a koji je u velikoj meri oblikovao svet u kome danas živimo, ne možemo, makar se i svojski trudili, da izbegnemo ovu temu. Isto važi i kada je reč o sukobima, pa čak i najvećim zločinima. U njihovoj pozadini uvek stoje odnosi moći i nemoći, obojeni idejom o određenoj pravdi i pitanjem šta opravdava nejednakost, a dokle smemo da garantujemo jednakost, ako već shvatamo da jednakost nije istost.

Zapravo, kada bolje razmislimo, o malo čemu možemo govoriti, a da koncept socijalne pravde nije prisutan – ako ne eksplicitno, onda makar implicitno. I baš zato o socijalnoj (ne)pravdi govorimo, mada ne uvek izričito, i kada naša omiljena kafa poskupi dok na putu do kafeterije prolazimo pored ljudi na pločniku koji mole za sitan novac; i kada neko drugi zarađuje više od nas uprkos našem uverenju da ulažemo više rada ili znanja; ali i kada, u strahu od potpuno unipolarnog sveta, analiziramo globalne odnose moći.

Vođeni tim razmišljanjima, ovaj broj posvetili smo socijalnoj pravdi. Tekstovi koji su uvršteni u ovaj broj ne nude jedinstven odgovor na pitanje šta je socijalna pravda, niti takav odgovor postoji. Umesto toga, svaki od njih predstavlja jedan prilog zajedničkom promišljanju – mali deo jednog, nadamo se, traktata o socijalnoj pravdi.

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