

## THE SPACES THAT SEPARATE

'We live in a system that manufactures sorrow, spilling it out of its mill, the waters of sorrow, ocean, storm, and we drown down, dead, too soon... uprising is the reversal of the system, and revolution is the turning of tides.'

– Julian Beck

'Poverty is the worst form of violence.'

– Mahatma Gandhi

Is it a crime to be poor? Yes, because crime doesn't pay and you can't either. Poverty is used to put or keep people in jail, the *criminal* justice system has flaws that disproportionately punish the *poor* and reward the rich. But poverty is fine, don't worry about it. It's not causing *crime*; you can just look at those folks and see their criminality, they inhabit areas plagued by violence.

*Between one pause and another,  
between one hearing and another,  
between one meal and the next,  
between aspiration and income.*

Criminalisation of poverty is costly, economically and socially, and poverty causes crime. People can argue but hundreds of people are sentenced each year for begging or sleeping rough. It is hard to live on the street like this, with no stability or quality of life and it is hard on poor children to understand why they are often treated like criminals; *poor* people live their entire lives in fear.

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Time in prison creates significant barriers for people to find a home or employment; being *poor* is being a victim of *crime* and being part of the *criminal* system itself. Poverty-stricken people are encouraged to

plead guilty to *crimes* they did not commit  
and kept in confinement. Deprivation  
causes inequality, marginalisation and  
subcultures, significant causes of crime.  
People are richer and poverty is a crime.

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