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Title: Desolation Row: Sustainability for the Oft-Forgotten

Sustainability policy and practice at the community, region, and national scales has made only modest progress at integrating social justice into sustainable development. Efforts to advance sustainability by governments, NGOs, and the private sector have oft-forgotten the needs of specific classes of persons—in particular the underclass, victims of natural hazards, the politically oppressed, refugees, and the poorest of the poor. In this presentation, we examine the implications of explicitly considering the oft forgotten in sustainability practice at multiple scales and in multiple sectors. First, to provide careful scope conditions for the analysis, we review various definitions of sustainability, searching for relevancy (or mention) of the oft forgotten, and define what we mean by sustainability. Second, we define, describe, and estimate the size of the several classes of persons included: 1) the underclass, 2) victims of natural hazards, 3) the politically oppressed, 4) refugees, and 5) the poorest of the poor. These are not mutually exclusive categories, and there exist many overlaps in these categories of persons. Third, we critically review the existing literature concerning the issue of sustainability and the oft forgotten. Fourth, we identify several specific policy and practice actions that could significantly advance sustainability for these classes of persons. We conclude with both an invitation and an alert: explicitly considering the oft forgotten in sustainability policy and practice is essential, can make more comprehensive our efforts at sustainable development, and is necessary to advance more just forms of sustainability.