

Charitable billionaires

Pascale Hughes's report on altruism (*i weekend*, 1 June) was excellent and balanced. It exposes the hypocrisy of the '1 per cent'. I remember writing a letter to another national newspaper in 2010 in response to the Giving Pledge¹⁾ announced by Bill Gates and Warren Buffet and a number of multibillionaires, asking them two simple questions: what is the hourly rate of workers in your company; and how much tax do you pay in the country where you make your profit?

I am pleased to see that the article states the shameful fact that inequality widens in tandem with corporate profits. Simple changes to our tax system, such as financial transaction tax and enforcing regulations for tax collection more rigorously, would have an immediate impact.

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noot 1 the Giving Pledge = een campagne om extreem rijke mensen aan te moedigen om een groot deel van hun rijkdom aan goede doelen te geven