

Review of: "The equality agenda: a clear case of smoke and mirrors"

Jan Vandemoortele¹

¹ United Nations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a good article on a topical issue that can be made into a great one, mostly by rethinking the structure. The author's personal story in Northern Ireland is insightful and most powerful. The article would benefit by starting with that part, and making the narrative more general to what has occurred across the Western world, not solely in the UK and US. In its present format, it may not be clear to the reader why the narrative swing from the US to the UK and back, with stopovers in Northern Ireland. The reference on 'Deaths of Despair' should be the book by Anne Case and Angus Deaton (2020) rather than Sandel (2021). Another work that may be useful to quote from is by Daniel Markovits, *The Meritocracy Trap: How America's Foundational Myth Feeds Inequality, Dismantles the Middle Class, and Devours the Elite* (2019).