



In common law countries (like NZ) that ratified the Bangalore Principles, as well as other countries that have already acknowledged the supremacy of human rights laws, International Human Rights Laws supersede national statute laws.

What are the Legal “Job” Responsibilities of the People in Their Role as Sovereigns of a Democratic Society?

According to international human rights laws, every individual person is under responsibility to secure, monitor and promote human rights to their best ability for everyone. They are to use whatever educational means they have available to promote local, national and international human rights standards. These include the areas of social, economic, cultural and political rights. We are also under responsibility to protect and care for our natural environment. Without a healthy and dynamic natural environment there can be no human life at all (see Agenda 21 from the Earth Summit).

The job description and responsibilities can therefore be found throughout the *International Bill of Human Rights* and can be summarised by the following quote from the *Preamble* of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. "NOW, THEREFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims This Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both

among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction." (For further research into the "Job" descriptions of individuals or their roles and responsibilities see also the *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* General Assembly resolution 53/144d.)

How a Global Crisis has Developed as a Result of Human Rights Violations by Governments of Almost All Nations.

The foundation of an international curriculum for Peace and World Order studies has been established in Universities around the world to address the impending problems of peace and global sustainability. Human rights violations have been found to be the central cause of the problems.

As a result of these violations, three principle threats to the world’s future have been identified:

1. Poverty (including unemployment and low-paid work)
2. Socio-political violence (Including compulsory or slave labour, and nuclear war),
3. Environmental degradation

The linking of these problems to Human Rights violations via economic policies has been well established, as verified by a consensus of world expert opinion expressed through International Human Rights laws, as well as other "recognised" international Instruments.

1. Poverty is both an economic and human rights issue (see the International Bill of Human Rights specifically the *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights* articles 7-12 and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* art. 8.). The following rights are legally binding on all countries that have ratified these documents.

- ICESCR Article 7 sets a minimum wage such that one adult’s income should be sufficient to provide for a household.
- ICESCR Article 5 does not allow any state, group, or

person, to engage in any activity that would be aimed at the destruction or limitation of these rights.

- ICCPR Article 8 guarantees freedom from slavery and compulsory labour (servitude).
- ICESCR Article. 11 and ICCPR (preamble) guarantees the right to be free from the fear of poverty regardless of whether one is “employed”.

2. Socio-political violence as it relates to economics, power, and poverty was one of the principle motivations for the establishment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see U.D.H.R. Preamble).

The European Social Charter states: "Civil and political rights and socio-economic rights must not constitute two distinct groups, for it must not be forgotten that it was their antagonism which gave rise to violently opposing doctrines. All these rights are equal and indivisible. It is impossible to choose between them. If a single right is abolished, the others are suppressed at the same time. Democracy cannot be based on half measures."

3. The relationship of environmental degradation to poverty and economics, hence human rights, was reaffirmed in Agenda 21 from the "Earth Summit" which was attended by government officials and experts from 178 different countries. They produced the document the *RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT*. In article 5 it says "All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an *indispensable requirement for sustainable development*, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world." At present an overwhelmingly high percentage of governments are pursuing economic policies promoting so-called competitive “job market” models within the context of a “deregulated economy”.



The very basis of this relies on the “fear of want” or poverty. Those models are illegal. One of the many advantages of a universal income system is that it places a legally acceptable baseline ensuring that people will not have to experience the fear of poverty. Hence, in a free market economy with a universal income, competition for jobs would not be based on the fear of poverty, but rather, on working conditions, salaries, and the overall contributions that service or job has for society as a whole.

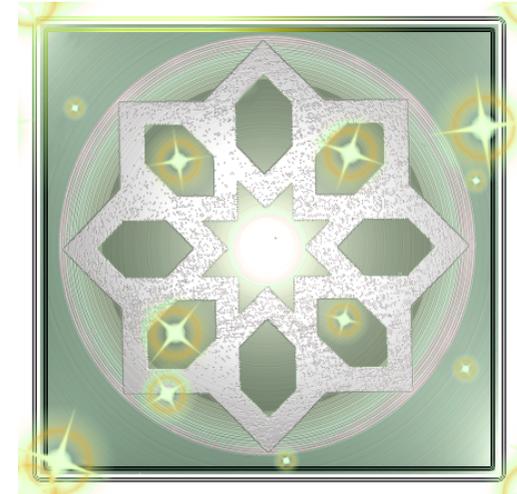
How the Implementation of a Universal Income is an Essential Requirement Empowering People to be Able to work through Our Present Global Crisis Effectively.

For people to perform their job responsibilities effectively they need the required time, resources, skills and knowledge.—The strategy presently employed to address this global crisis has been for government officials to claim the resources and responsibilities as exclusively theirs and “under control” . They will assess, action and resolve the issues as they see fit according to the parameters they set up for themselves. They will determine the required levels of public involvement. Unfortunately, according to the findings recorded by The World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993, “... three quarters of the violators of human rights guaranteed in international documents are the State Parties themselves”. Hence, it is the operational processes of governments that is the primary cause of our present global crisis. The ultimate responsibility, then, for the actions of governments and their officials rests with those who hire and fire them, pay their salaries, and experience the consequences of their actions: the people or the “Sovereignty”— According to the ICESCR article 7, everyone has the right to a minimum wage for any job that they have such that one Adult’s income is sufficient to provide for a household. Since it is the people’s job to super-

vised their governmental representatives or employees, they must according to law , have at least a minimum wage in order to carry out their responsibilities effectively. Everyone in a democratic society has the job of that nations sovereign. In a monarchy, the monarch had the right to get paid for his/her job. In a democracy the job of the monarch rightfully falls on the people (Democracy = Demos + krates = people + rulers or sovereigns). The people’s legal responsibilities are defined in the cited human rights documents. Therefore, universal income systems, must at the least, be inclusive of a legally required minimum wage standard paid to every individual of voting age, unconditionally, for that given democratic country. This accommodates the peoples necessity for time and resources to perform their job. It must also be paired with the move to revamping, where required, the education system such that it complies with human rights standards (I.C.E.S.C.R. art. 13). For example, this would mean educating people about their roles and responsibilities as that nations acting sovereign and how a democratic society actually works as opposed to an emphasis on “servitude” and employment. It would also emphasize issues like the need for a democratic society to have free education, and an equal access or free health care system. This is the aspect of a “universal income system” that ensures that people will have the requisite skills and knowledge to perform their job well. [Note, See UIT general brochure for complete definition of universal income systems.]

The job responsibilities of a citizen are staggering. As a society we are presently failing to meet the minimal acceptable standards for sustainability. We cannot afford to hesitate to meet the challenges of this global crisis. A Universal Income is an essential requirement for the people of all democratic nations to be able to work successfully through these impending threats to the future of life on our planet.

(Cover design by Patrick Danahey, Changing World by Changing Our Perceptions. Based on Sufi Contemplation diagram)



The Job of The Sovereignty of the People: Its Importance and Proofs

Global Sustainability and the role of Universal Income Systems.

Ending poverty, “Unemployment”, and Compulsory Labour

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