



"The answer or part of the answer is rather clear: everybody should be guaranteed a decent basic income."

John Kenneth Galbraith
Economist
Guardian Weekly, 1999

"I am now convinced that the simplest approach will prove to be the most effective – the solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income."



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr
Chaos or Community?, 1967



"Our vision is that free, appropriate and quality health care and education, decent secure and affordable housing, and a universal basic income will be available to all as of right."

National Peoples Assembly, Aotearoa NZ, 1994



"Where is the leadership from this Government at a time when we need vision; at a time of recession when there should be innovative solutions to share the existing wealth more equitably; at a time when proposals like unconditional universal income should be looked at?"

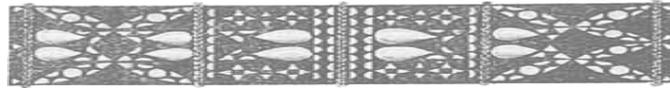
Rod Donald, Alliance MP – Speech to Parliament on the Social Security Amendment Bill (No. 5), 1998

Notes

1. In a democratic society every person has the job and responsibilities of that nation's acting sovereign. (Democracy = Gk. Demos [people]+ kratos [rule]).

For those responsibilities see *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* preamble and the *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. General Assembly resolution 53/144d*

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Benefits of a Universal Income

A Universal Income Would

- End poverty
- Raise the standard of living
- End unemployment
- Allow people to live in a healthy sustainable relationship with each other and their natural environment.
- Allow work flexibility and improved working conditions
- Reduce violence
- Re-establish a functional democracy.
- Revitalise the economy. Businesses prosper when everyone has income to buy goods and services. Profits and income increase for everyone.

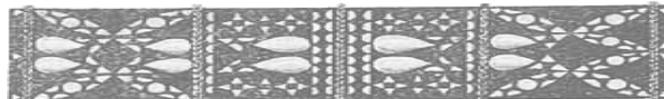
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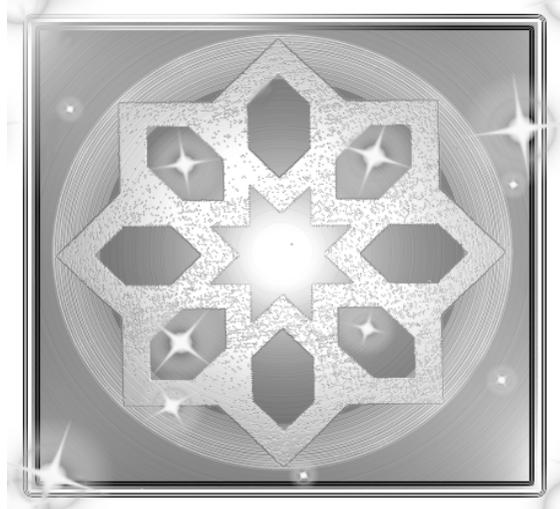
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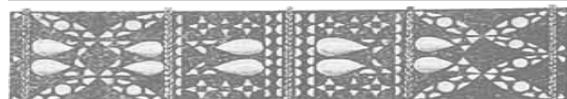


What are Universal Income Systems?

How can they be funded?

What are the benefits?

General Information



General 1

Universal Income

What are Universal Income Systems ?

Universal Income systems are those economic systems that are compliant with the International Bill of Human Rights. They need to provide the equivalent of at least an unconditional minimum waged income for every adult in addition to their present income level. The income or wage is compensation for a person's existing job responsibilities¹ as a sovereign of a democratic society which include:

- monitoring and securing human rights for everyone,
- working in harmony with our natural environment and protecting it for future generations,
- supporting a healthy environmentally sustainable economy, and supporting the expense, education, and well-being of the sovereign people.

The wage is unconditional: No one has the right to take it away from anyone else. If there is an economic problem, the society would find ways to generate income without taking people's basic "right to life" away from them.

It is universal: The income is provided to all citizens and permanent residents.

Universal income systems include: The promoting in the education system of people's learning about human rights and their democratic responsibilities in their role of shared sovereignty over their society.

These schemes comply with the International Bill of Human Rights. They affirm the rights to:

1. be free from the fear of poverty.
2. a minimum wage level such that one person's income is sufficient to provide for a household.
3. be free from forced or compulsory labour programmes and have free choice of employment.
4. be compensated in the event of "unemployment".
5. free health and education—including tertiary levels.

6. experience the equality of status that we all share living in a democratic society.
7. freely participate in the cultural activities of one's community.
8. have at least one parent or guardian stay home to provide for any children in his/ her care.

In common law countries like New Zealand international human rights laws supersede national statute laws.

Some Types of Universal Incomes

Any scheme meeting human rights standards such as some of the proposals representing Basic Income, Social Wage, Social Credit, Guaranteed Annual Income, Universal Basic Income and Unconditional Universal Income (UUI) is a different type of universal income.



UUI Banner at Hikoi Demonstration Wellington, NZ

Note: Both Universal Income (UI) and Unconditional Universal Income (UUI) refer to the same concept. UUI is the term used by those advocating and campaigning for a UI such as *UUI Action* which is an informal grassroots organisation.

Ways of Funding Universal Income Systems

There are a variety of ways to fund a universal income. Some of these ways are:

- A "Tobin" tax or transaction tax – a tax on currency exchange transactions.
- Resource, energy and pollution taxes based on percentages of individuals' incomes.

- Taxes on improved value of land.
- Progressive tax and tax on unearned income .
- Redistribution of income – capping high income.
- Adjustment of anomalies and inequities of the existing tax structure.
- Negative Income Tax - A tax paid and then redistributed back as a universal income.
- See *UI Funding Brochure*.

Nobel laureates in economics such as James Tobin, Jan Tinbergen, Herbert A. Simon and James Meade have shown the economic viability of universal income systems.



"If all people are to be rulers, which is what democracy means, then all people must be educated as rulers; nine tenths of them cannot continue to be trained as slaves....we are operating our schools as if most people were fit only for servile occupations, not for the obligations of free citizenship."

Robert Hutchins, PhD, prominent 20th century education leader and philosopher
The Conflict in Education, 1952

In 1981, renowned inventor, architect, engineer, mathematician and cosmologist with 47 honorary doctorates, Buckminster Fuller, PhD, stated that there were four billion billionaires on our planet, and that *"the planet earth's four billion billionaires have not been yet notified of their good fortune."* Why we are not receiving our share of the wealth is because of *"obsolete power structures of all kinds"* and that these *"exploitative systems are organized only to take bias advantage of all scarcities."*

