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Federal Job Guarantee Leaders Demand Economic Security and Dignity for All

On Milestone of International Human Rights Day Hundreds of Racial and Economic Justice Leaders Seek Policy for Guaranteed Good Jobs at Fair Wages

NEW YORK, NY – A group of more than 500 leaders and organizations nationwide has pledged support for a federal job guarantee by signing on to the [Jobs for All Manifesto](#) developed by PolicyLink, the National Jobs for All Network, and the Modern Money Network — an indication of the growing momentum and pressure from constituents across the country. Polling shows widespread public support for a job guarantee, and with the 2020 election at hand, this is a critical moment when racial, economic, and environmental justice advocates are uniting to make this demand.

A federal job guarantee would ensure that every person who wants work can have a good job with benefits that helps to meet vital community needs including environmental projects that address the existential threat of climate change. On International Human Rights Day, it is critical to address today's extreme economic inequality, continued joblessness and underemployment, and the increasing glut of unstable, low-wage jobs.

The inability to provide good jobs for all even in the best of times is a key failure of the modern economy. Nearly 100 million people — one in three — are living at or below 200 percent of the official poverty line, which is about \$50,000 a year for a family of four. This includes half of all people of color and nearly 60 percent of all children of color in the United States. To secure the economic and social rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we need policies that build an inclusive economy that leaves no one behind.

“Amid rising inequality and an uncertain future when it comes to good jobs, it is time for bold, transformative strategies to achieve economic security and dignity for all — a federal job guarantee is an imperative first step,” said Angela Glover Blackwell, founder in residence at PolicyLink. **“We are deeply encouraged by the positive momentum building for this necessary solution to address the economic challenges facing so many people across the country.”**

A federal job guarantee would free workers to leave jobs where they face discrimination, wage theft, are harassed, or experience unsafe working conditions. Further, it would put pressure on employers to provide better quality jobs. The benefits of the policy would help people and families and be an investment in neighborhoods and communities nationwide. **This type of direct public employment is what helped build major social and built infrastructure across America in the New Deal era.**

“By ensuring that every person who wants to work can have at least a living-wage job,” explained Dr. Darrick Hamilton, the co-author of a job guarantee proposal, **“a job guarantee would eliminate involuntary unemployment, reduce racial inequities, decrease poverty, and raise the floor on low-wage work while building stronger and greener communities.”** Dr. Hamilton is executive director at the

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and a professor at John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University.

"The U.S. government has designed our monetary and financial systems so that we must work for U.S. dollars — to survive or to thrive," said Raúl Carrillo, chair of the board of Modern Money Network. "As a matter of minimum fairness, the government owes good jobs to all who want to work for that money. By demanding a job guarantee, we are advocating for the universal, enforceable, and inalienable right of every person to participate in economic life in a manner consistent with basic principles of justice, equality, and dignity."

The 500-plus signers of the Jobs for All Manifesto include a distinguished roll call of organizations and individual advocates for social justice, including **political and economic analysts like Robert Reich, the mayors of Pittsburgh and Rochester, former Governor of Michigan Jennifer Granholm, environmental organizations like the Sunrise Movement, and racial justice organizations and faith leaders.**

"The demand of the Jobs for All Manifesto is clear. Across this country people expect the federal government to secure this fundamental human right," said Trudy Schaffner Goldberg, chair of the National Jobs for All Network. "People want to work, to support and care for their families, and to participate in their communities. For too long, too many Americans have been denied the right to practice the work ethic, the very creed of our society. It is time for the federal government to make the guarantee of living-wage work part of the American Dream."

The momentum is building on Capitol Hill as well. Several congressional representatives have put forth policies to address the demand for a federal job guarantee, including Senator Cory Booker and Representatives Bonnie Watson Coleman, Ilhan Omar, Marcy Kaptur, and Frederica Wilson. Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders has included a job guarantee as a key piece of his economic policy agenda. And perhaps most notably, the Green New Deal Resolution introduced by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with 97 congressional co-sponsors and support from nearly 500 organizations, includes a job guarantee.

The sign-on effort will continue through 2020, and organizers will continue to take meetings with policymakers who are advancing federal job guarantee policy. Learn more and sign on to the Job Guarantee Now! campaign by visiting jobguaranteenow.org.

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PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing racial and economic equity by Lifting Up What Works®. For more information, visit PolicyLink.org

About Modern Money Network

The Modern Money Network (MMN) aims to bring accurate and accessible knowledge of our monetary and financial systems to the broader public. For more information visit modernmoneynetwork.org

About National Jobs for All Network (formerly Coalition)

The National Jobs for All Network is committed to building and supporting a new movement for full employment at livable wages. For more information visit njfac.org