

voluntarily. At the same time it is attac's societal concern to grant all human beings, women and men alike, equal before the law, in all important domains, the preconditions to access and to partake in work and social life. All already existing instruments in terms of gender democracy and/or the inclusion of persons with disabilities or disadvantages are flanked by the UBI and are to be strengthened. This applies to all areas where certain groups of the population experience discrimination based on gender, "race", religion, handicap, or illness. The UBI does not marginalize any group of the population, but aims at boosting everyone's social participation.

### The Introduction of the Basic Income

The attac working group "enough for all" advocates the speedy implementation of the unconditional basic income in all areas where it is possible. Here its introduction, especially the establishment of social infrastructures and the payment of a basic income against hunger (basic food income) in the countries of the south, can already be started with. Even if the overall project has to be considered and realized on a global scale. Within the European Union the residency has to be the decisive factor concerning its receipt and its amount varies in relation to the poverty line in the corresponding country. Worldwide a basic food income has to be introduced immediately. Already the per capita payment of \$ 10 – 15 can put an end to acute poverty. For its funding international taxes on stock exchange turnovers or environmental impact e.g. air miles need to be raised.

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## Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) as Part of General Public Provisions

**An unconditional basic income (UBI) is a government-guaranteed monetary payment that meets the following five requirements:**

1. By birth each individual is legally entitled to said payment. It is made to the individual recipient. Payments are not netted against the income of other individuals living in the same household.
2. No conditions are set and no services have to be rendered in return. This holds particularly true for the duty to be available for employment on the market.
3. No means-testing is to be performed in advance. Setting-off the UBI payment against tax liabilities of the the previous year (negative income tax) will be considered acceptable.
4. These payments do not only have to be simply sufficient in terms of a secured livelihood. They also have to grant social participation in any and every manner.
5. The payments are made to every person living in the country regardless of their residency status or nationality.

### The Amount of the UBI

The amount of the UBI has to be determined to be large enough to allow for a culturally and socially fulfilling life and that every person is granted access to all necessary goods and services. This amount needs to be adjusted yearly and must not fall below the limits of exemptions from execution of any third party claims<sup>1</sup> in principle. Attac opposes explicitly any attempt to introduce a quasi basic income with the intention to restrict social security or comprehensive social participation. This also applies to the introduction of add-on wages.

<sup>1</sup> This designates the amount a person is allowed to keep, if the state seizes their income to pay third party claims. Currently it is 1045,04 Euros.



## **Enough for All – The Vision of a Basic Income Society**

Attac advocates a society that freely provides every person with what they need to fulfill socially necessary tasks both well and satisfyingly, as well as to educate themselves sufficiently to do so. The monetary payment of the UBI is only meant to be part of this. Of equal importance in this context, however, is the development of general public provisions, preventive social policy, and the development of social infrastructures. The attac working group “enough for all” advocates a more comprehensive definition of the term infrastructure. It should not only cover the classic domains such as education, cultural facilities, public transportation, etc. It should be extended to mobility in general, housing, and ultimately everything that is prerequisite to a satisfying fulfillment of socially crucial tasks. The community has to ensure the funding/financing of all necessary services. The level of the UBI payments can be lowered by the extent to which such services are freely available.

## **Solidarity-Based Old Age and Health Provision**

Insurance against the major life risks – old age and illness – also falls to the whole of society. Statutory health insurance and pensions persist and need to be consolidated. They are funded by means of a pay-as-you-go system, in accordance with the principle of the solidarity-based citizens' insurance where every Euro of income that a person in Germany earns is used to calculate their contribution. Here neither the type of the income (wage, salary, fee, capital income, rents, etc.) nor its amount is of importance. Insurance liabilities for all health and pension insurance members need to be introduced. The statutory health insurance covers all medically reasonable and necessary services. Private health insurances will become obsolete and will be abolished. The state support for all capital-cover-based public pension models is to be canceled. Regardless of the claims acquired through the payment of these contributions, every person has to receive a poverty-proof basic income as soon as they have entered the statutory retirement age. Drawing a pension at the corresponding retirement age is possible, however, not mandatory.

## **Funding of the UBI through a Citizens' Insurance**

Funding the UBI through a self-governed citizens' insurance appears to us to be the best possible solution. The goal is that the different citizens' provisions (basic income, health insurance, pension) are governed by the members themselves. The role of the state remains limited to that of the legal guarantor. For pension and health insurance, assigned contributions of sufficient value need to be raised. For both systems half of the costs are raised by the employer. Depending on their gross value added attained in Germany, the costs are passed on to all local employers, even if their registered office is located abroad. Prospectively all social security schemes are to be unified. This includes the basic income with its regular payments. If such a comprehensive restructuring of the social security system, in terms of legislation, organization and timing, is not possible in a timely manner, the UBI should be introduced

immediately without waiting for completion of the former. Until then, its funding is based on a mixture of several different elements which, as a matter of principle, all aim at reducing the burden on low incomes and increasing the burden on high incomes, fortunes, and corporate profits. With the “Solidarity-Based Simple Tax” attac Germany has submitted a comprehensive concept to create a fair tax system. The abolition of today's bureaucratic control and administration apparatus would save a lot of money. To fund a UBI, stock exchange turnover and environmental taxes are equally reasonable financing instruments as are purpose specific public charges. For an exact calculation we would like to refer to the models of Attac Austria and Attac Duisburg.

## **Minimum Wage and the Redistribution of Work**

General public provisions and social infrastructures are the key elements to allow for the emancipatory Effect of the UBI. They need to be enhanced, however, by social and economic policy measures. At latest with the introduction of the UBI the setting of a minimum wage takes priority. In full employment Such a minimum wage has to guarantee an income significantly above the poverty line, so that the basic income cannot be utilized to cut wages. But even with a UBI, there needs to be a job available for everyone who is capable and willing. For that reason, there must not be a deregulation of the labor markets. On the contrary, the UBI has to be embedded in an active labor market policy. The redistribution of work through the reduction of working hours will remain necessary. For persons with special needs (handicapped, elderly etc.) adequate aid has to be provided free of charge. Measures to promote social commitment and other opportunities for all those who have been exhausted by our work-oriented society need to be developed.

## **Child Poverty**

From our point of view, the unconditional basic income may not be primarily a means to fight poverty. But of course it serves this purpose as well. Since a disproportionately high percentage of children is inflicted by poverty, we demand the immediate introduction of a basic provision for children. Such a provision has to constitute a legal entitlement for the child/adolescent, it has to be need-adjusted, exempted from sanctions, and independent from their parents' or other family members' possible social benefits and/or sanctions. It is still debated within the working group, whether, the UBI payments for children should also be made to the families completely, or whether it has to be used from the outset partially to build up a free childcare infrastructure.

## **Equality of Opportunity**

The UBI, based on this model, shows its emancipatory effect by securing the material survival of human beings uncoupled from the compulsion to wage labor and by canceling out the dependence of women on the “family provider”, so that all women and men have the freedom to say “no” to every imposition that they do not agree with