

BIEN - Basic Income Earth Network

NEWSFLASH 58 September 2009

www.basicincome.org

The Basic Income Earth Network was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network. It expanded its scope from Europe to the Earth in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.

The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of *Paul Nollen, John Baker, Uschi Bauer, Simon Birnbaum, David Casassas, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Corina Rodríguez Enríquez, Sandro Gobetti, Claudia & Dirk Haarmann, Dirk Jacobi, Lena Lavinás, Annie Miller, Jim Mulvale, Dani Raventós, Dorothee Schulte-Basta, Al Sheahen, Michel Schweri, Philippe Van Parijs, Fábio Waltenberg, Karl Widerquist, Almaz Zelleke, and Thérèse Davio.*

This NewsFlash can be downloaded as a PDF document on our website www.basicincome.org

CONTENTS

Editorial: Call for Papers, BIEN Congress July 2010

- 1. Events**
 - 2. New Issue of Basic Income Studies**
 - 3. Glimpses of National Debates**
 - 4. Publications**
 - 5. New Links**
 - 6. About BIEN**
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Editorial: Call for papers for the next BIEN Congress, July 2010, São Paulo, Brazil

BIEN is preparing its next Congress, to be held on June 30, July 1st and 2nd, 2010, at the Faculty of Economics, Administration and Accounting of the University of São Paulo. A website will be launched in the coming weeks. In the meanwhile, information is already available at www.basicincome.org

The organizing committee, led by Lena Lavinás and Fábio Waltenberg, has issued the following call for papers.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The 13th International Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network

Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

June 30, July 1-2, 2010

CONGRESS THEME:

Basic Income – an Instrument for Justice and Peace

Basic income (BI) – the universal and unconditional income guarantee to individuals, on account of their belonging to a political community and on recognition of their common property on the community's riches – should by now be considered a realistic utopia.

Not only have concrete experiments begun to spread, but BI has also been called upon as a genuine way of addressing the increasing income gaps, wealth gaps, and economic insecurity of the globalised economy. The 13th International Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network will explore the basic income option from the standpoint of its contribution to social justice and peace. This includes basic income as a means of reducing inequality and poverty, guaranteeing economic security in an increasingly insecure world and addressing citizenship rights directly.

Prospective paper authors are welcome to examine these issues from various standpoints – conceptual, philosophical, theoretical, empirical, political – taking into account local, global or comparative perspectives. We invite paper and panel proposals on topics such as:

- BI and the global financial crisis: challenges to and opportunities
- Feasibility and financing issues at the local, national, regional, and global level (including political economy of financing, concrete experiments, and alternative revenue sources)
- BI in comparative focus (Employment Guarantees, Stakeholding, Earned Income Tax Credit, Revenue Minimum d'Insertion, Bolsa Família, FTC, Solidariedad, Oportunidad. etc.)
- BI and work (ethical, political, & empirical issues of the formal & informal labor markets)
- BI and informal communities (migrant and immigrant communities, shanty towns, slums, “quilombos”, and rural villages)
- Urban or rural issues and BI (violence, economic security, etc.)
- BI and welfare (care, family policies, pensions, social services and the transition from conditional to universal programs)
- BI and the contemporary discussions on development
- BI: Left or right politics?
- BI and democracy and justice (political, social, economic, and international issues)
- BI as emancipation policy: breaking racial or ethnic prejudices and transforming gender relations?

- BI and culture
- BI in particular countries and regions, and regional integration

Submission of Proposals and Important Deadlines

Scholars and practitioners are invited to propose panels and individual paper presentations for the Congress; different perspectives are welcome. Civil society organizations are encouraged to participate. Proposals for papers (by individuals or as part of a panel) should include the following information:

1. Name
2. Affiliation (if applicable) including job title and organization
3. Address
4. Telephone number (including international access code)
5. Email address
6. Title of the presentation/contribution
7. Selected topic (either one of those listed above or the topic proposed for the respective panel)
8. Abstract (summary of 800 to 1000 words)

Panel proposals must provide all of the above information for each paper, plus a definite title for the panel, a brief formulation of questions to be discussed (300-500 words).

Papers may be written in any language but the abstract must be submitted in English. The working language of the Congress will be English. The keynote conferences will be in English or Portuguese with simultaneous translation.

The deadline for submission of papers and panel proposals is **February 25th 2010**. Acceptance of proposals will be communicated by **March 25th, 2010** at the latest. This confirmation of acceptance will be provided earlier to those who submit proposals earlier. These should be emailed to bien2010.callforpapers@gmail.com.

Details concerning registration for the conference, accommodation, etc. will be available at the Congress website (to be announced) and will be emailed in due course to all those whose papers are accepted for presentation at the Congress.

1. EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

* **EDINBURGH (UK)**, 29 June-1 July 2009: Social Policy Association's annual conference

The Social Policy Association's annual conference was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from Monday 29 June to Wednesday 1 July. For the first time, the Citizen's Income Trust (CIT) organised the submission of six papers to be offered as two symposia of three related papers on Citizen's Income. These were by De Wispelaere and Stirton, Miller, and Widerquist in the first symposium, and Jordan, Standing, and Handler in the second. Another paper on basic income was presented independently by Maria Iacovou (University of Essex). These sessions were well attended and the papers well received, provoking discussion. The papers can be accessed on the conference website at www.cfr.ac.uk/spa2009/spa_index.html. The 2010 and 2011 conferences will take place in Lincoln, England. If the CIT organises the submission of

papers for symposia again, a call for papers from all interested parties will be published in the *CI Newsletter*, but, if not, individuals are encouraged to submit their papers directly, anyway. Further details can be accessed via www.social-policy.com

* **SANTIAGO DE CHILE (CL)**, 12-16 July 2009: 21st Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA)

Panel on Basic Income: "Basic Income – Approaches, Experiments and Developments around the World"; conveners: Carole Pateman (UCLA) and Matthew Murray (Cardiff University)
Paper givers: David Casassas (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Matthew Murray (Cardiff University), and Eduardo Suplicy (Senator, São Paulo, Brazil)

Carole Pateman provided an introduction to the panel "Basic Income: Approaches, Experiment and Development around the World" at the XXI Congress of the International Political Science Association in Santiago, Chile in July. Papers were given by Matthew Murray (Cardiff University), who raised the neglected question of how disabilities should be treated under basic income, whether as a medical condition or a question of capacities; Senator Eduardo Suplicy discussed some of the history of basic income and gave a first hand account of the latest developments in Brazil; and David Casassas (Autonomous University of Barcelona) argued that basic income would expand freedom in the form of personal independence by increasing individuals' bargaining power in many spheres of social life.

* **BUENOS AIRES (AR)**, 21 July 2009: Lecture by David Casassas

CEDINCI (*Centro de Documentación e Investigación de la Cultura de Izquierdas en la Argentina*, Buenos Aires / Centre for the Document and Research of the Culture of the Left in Argentina / www.cedinci.org) and *Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano* (REDAIC - www.ingresociudadano.org / Argentinean BIEN's official section) jointly organized a lecture by David Casassas (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) on "Social ontologies and (un)conditionality of public policy: the case of basic income". The talk took place at CEDINCI's offices on the 21st of July 2009 and constituted an excellent opportunity to assess basic income from a republican-socialist perspective. The main aim of Casassas' talk was to stress the importance of bargaining power when it comes to conceptualise and operationalize effective freedom. Bargaining power – Casassas argued – is a crucial element for individuals (not) to sign all sorts of contracts (labour contracts, "marital contracts", contracts for the buying and selling of goods and services, etc.) in conditions of absence of coercion and domination. Furthermore, this bargaining power (not) to sign contracts was shown as a necessary condition for a really free interdependence. In keeping with the republican and socialist ideal, the idea is not to foster individuals' atomization, but to settle the conditions for individuals' effectively free (undominated) interdependence. Finally, Casassas discussed the role of basic income as the axis of a package of measures aiming to universalise the right to relevant degrees of bargaining power.

* **OTTAWA (CA)**, 1-2 October 2009: Basic Income Workshop

Workshop organized by Basic Income Earth Network Canada: "Income Security for All Canadians: the Potential for a Guaranteed Income Framework for Canada". Further information at: <http://www.cpj.ca/en/bien-canada-ottawa-conference>

A background paper entitled "Income Security for All Canadians: Understanding Guaranteed Income" is also available.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

* **NAMUR (BE)**, 22 October 2009: Debate on basic income

Philippe Defeyt, an economist and prominent figure of Belgium's francophone green party (Ecolo), will debate the idea of a "universal grant" with Paul Palsterman from the Christian Trade Union confederation (CSC). Whereas Defeyt is a long-standing advocate of basic income, Palsterman has always been one of its most consistent opponents in the Belgian context. The debate will take place at the University of Namur, Auditoire E1, Rue Rempart de la Vierge 8, at 7:30 PM. For further information: namotte-patrick@skynet.be

2. NEW ISSUE OF *BASIC INCOME STUDIES*

[Basic Income Studies](#) Basic Income Studies is pleased to announce the publication of BIS Vol. 4, Issue 1. BIS back issues are available for free sampling at <http://www.bepress.com/bis>. Browse for the volume and issue on the bottom-right menu, click the required article and follow the instructions to get free guest access to all BIS publications.

CONTENTS OF VOL. 4, ISSUE 1:

Research Articles

[Basic Income or Caretaker Benefits?](#) by *Amy L. Wax*

[A Universal Basic Income: Theory and Practice in the Israeli Case](#) by *Miki Malul, John Gal, and Miriam Greenstein*

[A Universal Basic Pension for Europe's Elderly: Options and Pitfalls](#) by *Tim Goedemé and Wim Van Lancker*

Book Reviews

[Review of Brian Steensland, *The Failed Welfare Revolution: America's Struggle over Guaranteed Income Policy*](#) by *Cristian Pérez Muñoz*

[Review of Karl Widerquist, Michael Anthony Lewis and Steven Pressman \(eds.\), *The Ethics and Economics of the Basic Income Guarantee*](#) by *Richard K. Caputo*

[Review of Pete Alcock, *Understanding Poverty*](#) by *John J. Hisnanick*

To submit your next paper to Basic Income Studies, visit <http://www.bepress.com/bis>, and click "Submit Article". If you like to discuss your contribution informally, contact editors Jurgen De Wispelaere or Karl Widerquist at bis-editors@bepress.com

BIS is published by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress), sponsored by Red Renta Básica (RRB), the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) and the Spanish Instituto de Estudios Fiscales (IEF), and supported by the US Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG).

3. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

* CANADA: Christian organization calls for a basic income for all

Each year, the Canadian House of Commons Finance Committee asks Canadians to share their priorities and concerns for the federal budget. This year, the Christian organization *Citizens for Public Justice* (CPJ) responded « by reflecting on the Biblical values of justice, love for neighbour and care for creation ». It argued that the Canadian economy should be « an economy of care ». In its submission entitled « *Building an Economy of Care* » (August 2009), CPJ argues in favour of a basic income for all Canadians : « Fairness is a fundamental Canadian value. Extreme income inequality means that some have all the wealth and opportunity, while others are barely subsisting. A Guaranteed Livable Income for all Canadians would ensure that all Canadians had enough income security to meet their basic needs, while offering the opportunity for a better life. »

See <http://www.cpj.ca/en/building-economy-care>

* FRANCE: Capital grant for the youth discussed in official report

The idea of a “capital grant” is discussed in an official green paper entitled “Reconnaître la valeur de la jeunesse” (“To acknowledge the importance of youth”), which was published by the office of the French Prime Minister on July 6, 2009. Currently, the French minimum income scheme (RSA) is only paid to individuals above 25 years, hence the idea to launch a new programme of financial support for young adults. Among the options available, the idea of giving a capital grant that could be used for various purposes is considered attractive, because it would ensure equal opportunities and autonomy. This universal cash grant could be complemented with a targeted scheme for the poorest.

The report (PDF) is available at:

http://www.lagenerationactive.fr/files/LivreVertJeunesse_web0907.pdf

See also : <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/martin-hirsch>

* GERMANY: Campaign to vote for Basic Income at Federal elections

More than hundred candidates for the Federal elections of September 27, 2009 supported the idea of a basic income. The German Netzwerk Grundeinkommen promoted these candidates in a number of constituencies with the slogan “Grundeinkommen ist wählbar” (You can vote for basic income). Most of the candidates (59) belonged to the Green party “Bündnis 90/Die Grünen”, followed by 34 candidates with no party affiliation and 28 of the left wing party “Die Linke”. Among the candidates were the vice-chairwoman of the party “Die Linke” Katja Kipping. One of the candidates was Susanne Wiest, who collected 50.000 signatures on a petition in favour of basic income submitted to the Bundestag in early 2009. She was standing in Vorpommern (the most Northern Land of former East Germany) and can be seen campaigning on <http://vimeo.com/6184109>. She was not elected.

Thirty Basic Income-supporters got elected and are becoming members of the German Bundestag: 15 from the Greens, nine from the conservative party, five from "Die Linke" and one from the Social Democratic Party. None of the candidates with no party affiliation got elected. Among the elected candidates are the poverty researcher Dr. Wolfgang Strengmann-Kuhn of the Green party and the vice-chairwoman of the party “Die Linke” Katja Kipping. If the direct votes for all candidates are counted together 2.133.083 persons voted with their direct vote for a basic income supporter.

For further information: <http://www.grundeinkommen-ist-waehlbar.de/>
and <http://du-kannst-grundeinkommen-waehlen.de/>

*** IRELAND: Late tribute to Máire Mullarney**

On August 7, 2008, Irish activist Máire Mullarney died in Dublin, Ireland. A founding member of the Green Party, and a member of South Dublin County Council (1991-1999), she was also an early BIEN stalwart, and was involved in various campaigns in favour of basic income in Ireland and Europe. She wrote several papers on the topic, including one in Esperanto (1996).

See <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2008/0819/1218868120714.html>
<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/greens-in-mourning-for-founder-1458657.html>

*** IRELAND: Social Justice Ireland**

A new organization called *Social Justice Ireland* was launched on Monday September 7, 2009. Led by Seán Healy and Brigid Reynolds, *Social Justice Ireland* will take over the programmes and projects run in recent decades by *CORI Justice* including its role in the Irish basic income discussion. The website (www.socialjustice.ie) will provide up to date material on the range of issues addressed previously on the *CORI Justice* website. You will find all the papers and related material from BIEN Congress 2008 on the new website. The work of *CORI Justice* has developed in recent years to involve many local groups and individuals throughout Ireland. The establishment of *Social Justice Ireland* is a logical step to reflect this broader involvement beyond the members of religious congregations. The new structure will reflect this development and will consolidate the work across the various categories of activity into the future.

The new organisation has the support of religious and lay people throughout Ireland. It describes itself as “working to build a just society where human rights are respected, human dignity is protected, human development is facilitated and the environment is respected and protected.” Membership of *Social Justice Ireland* is open to individuals (religious and lay) and to groups (organisations and congregations etc.) who support the basic thrust of the values and work that form the core of *Social Justice Ireland*.

For further information : Social Justice Ireland, Arena House, Arena Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Ireland, Website: www.socialjustice.ie, Email: secretary@socialjustice.ie, Brigid Reynolds: brigid.reynolds@socialjustice.ie, Seán Healy: sean.healy@socialjustice.ie

*** EUROPEAN UNION: EAPN launches adequate minimum income campaign**

On May 25, 2009, The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) launched a website (www.adequateincome.eu) as part of the second stage of its Adequate Minimum Income Campaign. EAPN calls on all people who believe in providing everyone with the opportunity to live a dignified life to join the campaign by signing the appeal on the website. According to Ludo Horemans, President of EAPN, “*Minimum Income schemes are a lifeline for many people experiencing poverty, providing money for essentials and support to be active in society, as well as being essential tools to stabilise the economy and ensure a social response to the current economic crisis*” As a key part of this campaign EAPN calls on the Member States and the EU Institutions to respect the commitment made in December 2008

Recommendation on Active Inclusion to recognise “*the individual’s basic right to resources and social assistance sufficient to live a life that is compatible with human dignity*”.

*** JAPAN: Basic income in electoral platform**

On August 30, 2009, general elections were held in Japan. According to Alex Martin from the *Japan Times* (August 8, 2009), the small New Party Nippon had included basic income in its campaign platform. It promised “several major policies, including the enactment of a monthly “basic income” allowance for all citizens”

See: <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090808a5.html>

Party’s website: http://www.love-nippon.com/12jyunbi_chu.htm

*** NAMIBIA: Basic income pilot project discussed in major German magazine**

On August 10, 2009, *Der Spiegel*, one of Germany major’s magazines, published a long and favourable article on the Namibian basic income pilot project entitled “How a Basic Income Program Saved a Namibian Village”. “it sounds like a communist utopia, but a basic income program pioneered by German aid workers has helped alleviate poverty in a Namibian village. Crime is down and children can finally attend school. Only the local white farmers are unhappy”, the author argues (see the English version at <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,642310,00.html>)

The German television channel ZDF also aired a special 9 minutes documentary on the basic income pilot project in Otjivero-Omitara. You can watch the clip at:

www.heute.de under: BIG money für alle or try the following direct link:

http://www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/content/BIG-Money_fuer_alle/821928

The BIG pilot project also got good press coverage in the *Stabroeknews*, a newspaper from the Republic of Guyana. In its August 29, 2009 editorial, the *Stabroeknews* staff wrote the following: “What makes the Otjivero precedent so important is the very hopelessness of the village’s initial situation. In terms of developmental challenges, Otjivero is the New York of the developmental world. If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. With a small tax increase, the government of Namibia could easily guarantee a monthly stipend for all its citizens, opening up a promising and almost completely new prospect for grassroots development, not just for Namibia but for every underdeveloped country in the world. While there are still, undeniably, very large problems which remain to be solved across the continent, the Otjivero project also offers a glimmer of hope that Africa’s future may not be irretrievably lost after all. ”

(see : <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/editorial/08/29/rethinking-development-in-africa/>)

The BIG Coalition itself published a brief report on the project in *The Namibian* (August 7, 2009), focusing in particular on the situation of children. The authors conclude that “the pilot project in Otjivero-Omitara has proven the potential enormous positive developmental impact of a national BIG and the good news is that independent research has clearly shown that such a grant is affordable for Namibia.”

See: <http://www.namibian.com.na/letters/full-story/archive/2009/august/article/a-big-grant-for-little-people/>

Finally, according to the *New Era* (Windhoek, August 19, 2009), Namibian trade union leaders under the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW), threw their support behind

the Basic Income Grant (BIG) concept in the framework of their Central Executive Committee. They resolved to “establish a high-level committee to initiate dialogue on BIG and related efforts with the Government and all social partners involved and relevant in this noble fight”. See: <http://www.newera.com.na/article.php?articleid=6260>

*** SOUTH AFRICA: No basic income in KwaZulu-Natal**

According to South Africa’s *Mail & Guardian* (July 23, 2009), the Prime minister of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, M. Zweli Mkhize, shrugged off suggestions of introducing a basic income grant, saying this would bankrupt government as it did not have available funds. "It is not affordable, it is not something that we are considering implementing as it would bankrupt government," he told the media.

See : <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-07-23-basic-income-grant-will-bankrupt-govt-says-kzn-premier>

*** SWITZERLAND: Basic income to be included in the Geneva Constitution?**

On October 19, 2008, a Constituent Assembly was elected in the Geneva district (canton) of Switzerland. Its main task consists in discussing a new cantonal constitution, which is aimed at replacing the 1847 Constitution. According to the Newspaper *Le Courrier* (Geneva, July 29, 2009), BIEN Switzerland managed to collect 1,900 signatures for a petition in favour of the inclusion of the right to a basic income into the new constitution.

See: <http://www.lecourrier.ch/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=443059>
BIEN-Switzerland:

*** UNITED KINGDOM: Peter Townsend dies**

Usbig reports that long-time basic income supporter, Peter Townsend died in June 7, 2009 at age 81. He was a sociologist, a professor of social policy at the London School of Economics, an emeritus professor at the University of Bristol, and joint founder of the Child Poverty Action Group. According to Tom Clark, of *The Guardian* Newspaper (June 9, 2009), Townsend “became a public figure in the 1960s when, together with Brian Abel-Smith, he ‘rediscovered’ British poverty, a problem then often complacently discussed in the past tense... Despite its huge significance, however, this work was merely one aspect of a career of many parts, mixing politics and advocacy with an extraordinary range of research. Townsend railed against the narrowness of modern academic life, covering everything from children's rights to nursing homes, at some times soaring to adopt a global perspective, at others diving to analyse, for instance, the social effects of shopping centres in Manchester. But a single thread tied the strands of his work together - concern about inequality.” According to Clark, Townsend’s “work has informed almost all academic research on poverty since.” Townsend was a supporter of basic income as it changed names and went in-and-out of favor over the years. He spoke at the 2008 BIEN Congress in Dublin.

Articles about Peter Townsend’s life are online
at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/professor-peter-townsend-campaigner-for-social-justice-who-cofounded-the-child-poverty-action-group-1704169.html> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/jun/09/obituary-peter-townsend> <http://www.intute.ac.uk/blog/2009/06/12/peter-townsend-sociologist-and-human-rights-campaigner/>

* UNITED STATES: Bill to implement basic income — in Iraq

UBSIG REPORTS: Many people believe that the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend is an idea ready to export—a model that should be copied around the world. Two U.S. Senators have gotten the idea that the Alaska model is ready to be copied, not by the country over which the U.S. Senate has jurisdiction but by Iraq instead. Last January, John Ensign (Republican-Nevada) introduced the “Support for Iraq Oil Trust Act” of 2009. According to the official summary of the bill, it would force the U.S. State Department to present a plan for an oil trust fund (based on the Alaska model) to the Iraqi government, and it threatens to reduce U.S. aid to Iraq if the U.S. Secretary of State fails to do so. The bill picked up one cosponsor, Senator Evan Bayh (Democrat-Indiana). No further action has been taken on the bill since it was referred to committee in January, and probably the bill will die in committee. But the bill has received negative attention from press in the Persian Gulf region. Saadallah Fathi, writing for GulfNews.com (based in Dubai, June 14, 2009) sees the bill as an effort to pressure the Iraqi government to adopt a policy that is not well-suited for Iraq’s situation.

For Saadallah Fathi’s article in the Gulf News, go to:http://www.gulfnews.com/business/Comment_and_Analysis/10322760.html

4. PUBLICATIONS

* FRENCH

DAMON, Julien (2009), *Questions sociales, analyses anglo-saxonnes: socialement incorrect?*, Paris : Presses Universitaires de France, 256 pp., ISBN-10: 2130570186, ISBN-13: 978-2130570189

This book by Julien Damon (Sciences Po Paris) is aimed at introducing the Anglo-American literature on social issues to a French-speaking audience. In Chapter II, it discusses at length Ackerman & Alstott’s « stakeholder society » - a society in which young adults would get a capital grant – as well as Charles Murray’s plan to « replace the welfare state » by a universal cash grant.

For further information :
http://www.puf.com/wiki/Major:Questions_sociales_analyses_anglo-saxonnes

VAN PARIJS, Philippe (2009), ‘Allocation universelle et valeur du travail’, Espace de libertés, Magazine du Centre d’action laïque, September 2009, issue 378, <http://www.ulb.ac.be/cal/edl/magazine/magazineedl.html>

This short piece includes a reprint from the 1984 article on the « universal grant » that contributed to launch the debate on basic income in Belgium and France. It also includes a short “post-scriptum” by Van Parijs, written in August 2009 and specifically focused on the Belgian context.

* ENGLISH

CITIZEN’S INCOME TRUST (2009), *The Citizen's Income Newsletter*, Issue 3, 2009.

This issue of 20 pages contains a report on the seminar series that was co-ordinated by the CIT, and delivered in March this year. It also contains a major article that addresses the challenge of using ‘The Minimum Income Standards’ published by The Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2008 as a benchmark for a Full Citizen’s Income (www.minimumincomestandard.org). The MIS values enable one to adopt much more generous levels of CI than previously, for elderly people, those with disabilities, parents-with-care and carers-of-last-resort. The article proposes that able-bodied people of working age, without major caring responsibilities, or any obvious impaired ability to earn, would receive a Partial CI. It is claimed that this scheme is economically feasible. This issue of the Newsletter ends with two ‘Viewpoints’.

The *CI Newsletter* can be read or downloaded at www.citizensincome.org/index.html

RAVENTOS, Dani & LO VUOLO, Ruben (2009), ‘Basic Income: good in the boom, essential in the crisis’, *On Line Opinion. Australia’s e-journal of social and political debate*, July 16, 2009, <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=9172>

Today’s economic crisis invites reflection on the role a basic income might play as an effective way of combating some of its worst effects, especially in protecting some of the hardest-hit groups, Dani Raventos (Red Renta Basica, Spain) and Ruben Lo Vuolo (REDAIC, Argentina) argue.

Available at: <http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=9172>

5. NEW LINKS

* **Oxfam’s blog on a citizen’s income**

Oxfam is hosting a Blog Debate on basic income, with respect to its role in combating poverty. Citizen’s Income Trust (CIT) Director, Dr Malcolm Torry has prepared a paper, “A Citizen’s Income: part of the answer to poverty”. Another blogger will prepare an article on the case against basic income.

The debate can be followed on: www.oxfamblogs.org/ukpovertypost

* **Oil Resource Rents**

In a paper entitled ‘Citizen dividends and oil resource rents, a focus on Alaska, Norway and Nigeria’, Alanna Hartzok (Co-Founder and Co-Director of Earth Rights Institute, Vice President of the Council of Geogist Organizations, and UN NGO Representative for the International Union for Land Value Taxation) explores the oil rent institutions of Alaska, Norway and Nigeria with a focus on these questions: Are citizen dividends from oil rent funds currently or potentially a source of substantial basic income? Are oil rent funds the best source for citizen dividends or should CDs be based on other types of resource rents?

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2009/08/13/citizen-dividends-and-oil-resource-rents-a-focus-on-alaska-norway-and-nigeria/>

* **Crowns for basic income**

Swiss and German basic income activists recently started to crown queens and kings in various cities (see NewsFlash 57). All information about the actions, events, and crowning tours are now available (in German) at : www.kroenungswelle.net.

* **Katja Kipping on basic income**

Katja Kipping, the Vice-Chairwoman of the German political party “Die Linke”, has published an online article on basic income in the framework of Znet’s series “Reimagining Society Project”. “The most logical answer to the insecurity caused by the precariousness and transformation of the world of work is an unconditional basic income.”, Kipping argues. See: <http://www.zmag.org/znet/viewArticle/22226>

*** Ian Murphy interviews Karl Widerquist**

USBIG reports that Ian Murphy, from BuffaloBeast.com, interviewed Karl Widerquist from USBIG in issue #137, and asked questions, such as “What is BIG and how will it destroy America’s values?” and “What happens when people spend their basic income on crack and lottery tickets?” Yet, he turned it into a very favorable article about basic income. Widerquist’s answers are online at: <http://buffalobeast.com/137/BIG.html>

*** The end of jobs**

USBIG reports that *NewsVine.com* has an online article by Tino Rozzo, entitled “The End of Jobs”. The article argues for a basic income on the grounds that machines are replacing labor on a massive scale.

See: http://tinorozzo.newsvine.com/_news/2009/07/18/3037321-the-end-of-jobs

*** Basic income for children in New York State**

New York State currently spends roughly 20,000 US dollars per schooled child per year to support the public school system. This essay by Paul Fernhout suggests that the same amount of money be given directly to the family of each homeschooled child. See: <http://www.pdfernhout.net/towards-a-post-scarcity-new-york-state-of-mind.html>.

6. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

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