

BI not JSA: A Basic Income for All



A Basic Income (BI) is a weekly payment to every man, woman and child. It is a human right of every person and is enough to cover needs for food, fuel, shelter and clothing.

Basic Income works on the same principle as Child Benefit. It is a universal benefit and will replace all other benefits.

If you earn money, the BI will act like a tax allowance: you will pay no tax until you reach the BI level.

There will be no need to take training courses or prove you are looking for work. The idea of BI is to stop blaming people for being unemployed and instead to recognize their needs and give them enough money to meet them.

Paying for the Basic Income

How would we pay for a Basic Income for every person?

The net cost of BI would be only 5 per cent of GDP. We currently spend a smaller proportion of GDP on social benefits than most developed countries.

BI would be a much simpler system—combining the present tax and benefits systems—and so administration costs would be saved.

BI would also reduce the extent of the black economy, since people would be allowed to continue to claim it and work at the same time. So taxation revenue from this sector of the economy would increase.



The Benefits of a Basic Income Scheme

A Basic Income Scheme would:

- end the poverty trap
- share out work more fairly
- guarantee minimum living standards for all
- protect people in work
- give us all the freedom to choose what we do

Isn't it time we had one?

There is plenty of money in our economy to pay for everybody's needs; the problem is that most of it is wasted on a few people's greed.

Questions and Answers about BI:

Wouldn't everybody just stop working?

This is unlikely. Many people work for no financial gain today. But BI would stop people being forced to work in inhumane and exploitative conditions.

What is more there would be less pressure to work long hours and jobs would be shared.

Will BI cause wages to fall?

No. People on low wages will be better off than they are today. Since nobody is forced to work, unpleasant work may see higher rates of pay.

Will BI reduce unemployment?

BI may make feasible low-paid jobs which cannot exist at present. People could work for low financial returns (perhaps in their own businesses) because of the support of BI.

Will BI make strikes more likely?

Strikes on safety matters may increase, but strikes over pay will be less likely.

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**Basic Income:
Security and
Dignity for All**



This leaflet outlines the Green Party's policy of providing a decent standard of living for everyone