

Universally Basic: An Ethical Case for Universal Basic Income

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Abstract: Radical issues require a radical solution. If we are to combat the widening inequalities in our current economic paradigm, revolutionary thought is needed. We can find one such source of revolutionary change within the call for a universal basic income (UBI). While often deemed a utopian fantasy, a UBI now lies within our grasp. We need only to make the moral and ethical choice to embrace it. Defenses of a UBI have come from every political quarter, from the staunchest libertarians to the most egalitarian liberals. Here is presented an argument for UBI based upon a recognition of the dignity of the human condition. Drawing upon the work of a diverse cast of thinkers from Adam Smith and Martha Nussbaum to Paul Goodman and John Kenneth Galbraith, amongst others, UBI can be shown to support a level of universal basic human dignity that allows for an agency and a capacity for a wide-range of capabilities, otherwise stifled in our current socio-economic regime.

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