

# **REVOLUTION LA**

## **13-Point Human Rights-Based Revolutionary Agenda**

### Introduction

The 13-Point Human Rights-Based Revolutionary Agenda is a collective vision that sets the groundwork for a people's movement, transitioning the United States from a system that serves the interests of the few into one that benefits the many. The Agenda was created with a human rights framework, integrating independent ideas and platforms to address solutions that empower the people, ensuring basic human needs remain a priority over profit.

The 13-Point Agenda outlines critical social and economic infrastructures that require a profound restructuring. Our objective is to create an inclusive economy based on shared prosperity, fostering income growth and social mobility for the underprivileged. We believe long-term sustainability requires a development goal that focuses on economic growth, equal access and equal opportunity for the vast majority of the population in lower socioeconomic positions.

As economic inequality grows wider, it has become more than apparent that we cannot sustain ourselves unless deeper systemic changes are made. We need a revolution that empowers and enriches the lives of every single human being from the bottom-up. We need a reversal of order that subverts a system dominated by ego and controlled by hyper-individualism that has ruled with insatiable, empty greed for the benefit of the few at the suffering and exploitation of the masses.

Over three decades of free-market capitalism has resulted in nearly 50 million people living below the poverty line in the U.S., half a century of stagnant wages, and a decimated middle class as 99 percent of all new income generated is directly absorbed by the top 1 per cent.

The United States is the largest global economy and one of the wealthiest nations in the world, yet the benefits of our nation's prosperity are funneled into the hands of an elitist class, leaving the masses struggling with economic insecurity and an uncertain future. Financial gains flow disproportionately to the owners of capital, leaving the population in the midst of the most severe wealth inequality since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

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The U.S. has enough wealth to provide for all fundamental needs of its citizens, including publicly funded education and healthcare, as well as the resources to create a full employment program. But the corruption of moneyed interests have left the American people without a voice, silenced over spending priorities as private interests hold unrestricted power and influence over public policy agendas.

Economic inequality will continue to widen until we address fundamental changes in the imbalance of power and wealth. It is imperative that we reverse the decline and transition into a new system that meets the collective needs of the people. Without sustained economic growth, those in poverty are unlikely to increase their living standards. A highly civilized, enlightened society must place the cultivation of human capital at the greatest level of importance, enabling its citizens to reach the maximal level of self-determination.

In the long term, we envision a world that surpasses the use of money, leveraging advanced technology and a highly organized economic infrastructure in order to produce and distribute all outputs, goods and services, for free. We believe the greatest path towards sustainability of the human race is ultimately a world of shared prosperity and common heritage. The revolution, as with all progressive efforts, is an ever-evolving process, thus our 13-Point Agenda is a conceptual framework for the beginning of a progressive movement for the creation of a people over profit system centered on three key tenets: economic empowerment, ecological respect and equal access and opportunity for all.

The obstacles we face are enormous and provide a challenge of heroic proportions for freedom fighters. However, we are also faced with the greatest opportunity in the history of civilization. We sit amongst the greatest level of knowledge, wealth and technology in history, much of which is grossly misused and abused due to the societal framework in which they operate. Yet with these tools at our disposal and a grand vision for the future of the human race, we are capable of reassessing all values to create a paradigm shift in economics, science, education and culture, ushering in a new Renaissance. With these 13 points we can begin to manifest the destiny of humanity and fulfill our incredible potential. Our hope is to create a mass movement of conscientious people standing up to intelligently fight for liberation in its truest sense- a people's liberation, one that turns the tide to give freedom and justice to 100% rather than the 1%.

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### 1. Dismantle the Military-Industrial Complex.

Focus on growing the civilian economy; end the empire and permanent war economy. Since 2011, the financial cost of war in the U.S. has reached \$1.6 trillion. Our political and economic welfare cannot be dependent on wars funded by American taxpayers while the domestic security and wellbeing of citizens remains unstable. National security must instead emphasize access to human needs: creating jobs, access to healthcare, housing, funding education, and rebuilding our infrastructure. National defense protection should operate within a reasonable and rational model that provides for self-defense while respecting the sovereignty of other nations.

Dismantle the military-industrial complex which currently receives a majority of its funding from the federal government. Withdraw all U.S. military presence deployed around the globe, descale and nationalize all arms manufacturers, close U.S. bases around the world, end drone warfare, cease weapons sales and military assistance to Saudi Arabia, and cutoff military aid to Israel unless all remnants of apartheid state are dismantled, human rights violations cease and a two-state solution is reached.

The United States spends \$610 billion annually in defense, accounting for over 50 percent of all federal expenditures. The U.S. military currently outspends the top 9 global military budgets combined. We must move from a society that maintains mass destruction into one that values mass creation.

We must put an end to the destruction and destabilizing of entire regions, resulting in the deaths and migration of millions of innocent civilians to further the private interests of corporations and the U.S.'s geopolitical agenda. International policies must focus on a peace economy, using foreign aid in vulnerable areas to promote jobs and livelihoods.

### 2. Public Ownership of Banks.

The banking industry's unregulated manipulations and privatized monopoly over the market share have directly risked the jobs, homes and savings of millions of Americans, as shown by the financial crisis of 2008 which exposed the rampant fraud committed by Wall Street's largest financial institutions.

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We support the nationalization of banking and credit institutions. Public ownership of the monetary and credit system allows for transparent, efficient and fair oversight, working in the fullest interest of the people. A banking system that operates as a public utility with accessible, interest-free credit can generate profit used to strengthen the economic infrastructure.

Publicly owned banking and credit institutions mandated to serve the people would redirect necessary credit to further social, economic and environmentally sustainable developments.

### 3. Education Revolution.

Education is not a privilege; it is a human right. We need to foster the intellectual capital of our youth, cultivating students to reach their highest potential through an education approach that encourages creativity, reasoning, analytical thinking, and innovation. Illiteracy must be eradicated.

The existing K-12 system must be revolutionized, disbanding the outdated public education model and replacing it with high-quality early childhood education programs that support the growth and development of every child. A quality education is not just a personal investment; it is a public investment in social capital.

Public colleges and state universities must be made tuition-free. The federal government currently spends \$69 billion on financial aid programs for students to attend for-profit schools with low graduation rates, while the cost to make public higher education tuition-free is estimated at \$62 billion, less than 10 percent of the U.S. military and defense budget. We support the cancellation of all student loan debt. An education system should be conducive to learning and the creation of powerful minds, not a multigenerational debt cycle.

We have a moral imperative to our youth and our future to provide every student with an initiative to learn with equal access and opportunity to pursue a higher education. Higher education must be transformed, moving from a system of programmed learning, into one centered on true knowledge, producing highly-

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skilled advanced workforce and fully realized citizens capable of leading and contributing to society in a positive manner.

### **4. Green New Deal. Nationalize Fossil Fuel Industries.**

A movement towards a prosperous world requires forward thinking solutions that are both economically empowering and environmentally sustainable. We must transition into a clean energy economy, investing in energy conservation, green power, and the development of an efficient infrastructure that replaces fossil fuel with carbon-free, nuclear-free, renewable energy.

We support the nationalization of the fossil fuel industries. The U.S. fossil fuel companies (oil, gas and coal) currently generates over \$330 billion. These profits are heavily subsidized and used to solely benefit private corporate interests while imposing large-scale environmental and ecological destruction.

A reallocation of all fossil fuel revenues provides the stimulus money necessary to develop a Green New Deal, the creation of green-collar jobs and the investment for R&D of renewable energy and green infrastructure centered on long-term sustainability and ecological respect.

### **5. Guaranteed Living Wage. Right to Employment.**

Over the last few decades, an increase in the cost of living coupled with stagnant wages has led to a decreased quality of life for a significant portion of the U.S. population. The United States currently spends approximately \$1 trillion in government assistance programs, yet this figure is ineffective at sustaining livelihoods without a greater solution to systematically eliminate poverty.

The large-scale public works developments of the Green New Deal would create a federally funded workforce of millions of new green-collar jobs. A human being's right to productive employment should be a primary goal for any highly industrialized and civilized nation. We must strengthen and streamline our social safety net, ensuring every individual the right to live a life of security beyond poverty.

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One in six, or 47.5 million Americans currently rely on food stamps. The staggering number of people at the lower end of the economic bracket struggling with housing and food security reveals a glaring reality: most workers do not have the sufficient tools to meet the basic needs of their families. With the majority of wages going towards paying for rent and food, this leaves very little for necessities like transportation, medical care, childcare and education.

As capital cannot exist without the labor, resources, and collective productivity of the population, the right to a living wage must become a civil and human guarantee. A decent standard of living in every household allows for every child and adult to flourish with equal opportunity towards a dignified future without limitations.

### 6. Strengthen Labor Power and Worker Co-ops.

Over the last half century, the labor powers of workers have drastically declined and wages have remained stagnant. With unions and collective bargaining rights stripped along with the lowering of labor standards, the basic rights of workers, both union and nonunion have been undercut, threatening our ability to earn a decent living wage.

Workers must have the right to unionize without retribution. Corporations outsource both low and high-paying jobs to countries with lower wages, and attack union organizing by threatening to shut domestic operations and move production abroad. The erosion of wage and labor standards continues to destroy income equality by widening the gap between productivity and compensation of wages and benefits.

We need a rejuvenation of labor power, actualized through the co-operative business model. Worker cooperatives where worker-owners collectively organize and control the means of production and services provide mutually benefitting profits for all members. The worker co-op framework empowers all worker-owners through member-controlled policies and decision making, while strengthening community development at the local level.

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We must build a new world founded on economic justice where profit and prosperity are collectively shared. The creation of local economies based on an interwoven system of cooperatives and local businesses can jointly support one another and prevent a single corporation from gaining economic monopoly and stronghold profit. Community-led and controlled co-operative economies allow for a more “human” address of problems; shifting economic power to the local decision-making process helps prioritize the wellbeing of the people over private interests.

### 7. Universal, Publicly Funded Healthcare.

Healthcare is a vital necessity of life that must be afforded to every single person as a fundamental human right. 35 million Americans do not have access to healthcare, with millions more placed into positions of financial hardships due to the for-profit costs of primary, preventive care and medical treatments.

As the only industrialized country that does not offer universal healthcare, the U.S. spends \$3.8 trillion annually on a healthcare system that ranks last in quality, cost, access and efficiency in comparison to other developed nations. The cost for universal health care in the U.S. is estimated at \$95 billion, one-third the cost of what we currently spend on an ineffective system that prioritizes profits for insurance companies and medical establishments over the medical care and treatment of its people.

The Medical-Industrial Complex must end through the removal of patent protections, ending the financial relationships between doctors and drug companies, and prohibiting lobbying and federal campaign contributions. Pharmaceutical companies should be accountable to the wellness of the people and not their shareholders.

Basic human needs cannot be commoditized. We support a health care system that is national and publically funded, guaranteeing access to adequate medical care with protection from financial hardship for specialist health services. This is a prerequisite for a human rights framework that ensures the universal health and wellbeing for all human beings.

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8. End Globalization. Repeal NAFTA, TPP and International Free Trade Agreements.

Corporate free-trade agreements have given rise to the offshoring of production, contributing to stagnant wages and the loss of nearly 5 million U.S. manufacturing jobs over the past 20 years. NAFTA and the TPP are two major examples of neoliberal policies that have undermined prosperity and economic growth for common people as jobs are either lost or workers' wages and collective bargaining rights have been undercut, leading to many forced to find work for less pay.

We support a national economic system of trade protectionism, repealing NAFTA and the TPP, raising tariffs and dismantling the pillars of economic globalization in which multinational corporations benefit at the expense of the people and the nation itself. While imports increase and exports significantly slow, trade expansion deals have also led to a ballooning of the U.S. trade deficit and rising inequality due to the upward redistribution of wealth and power to the multinational corporations to whom free-trade agreements benefit.

The security and economic sustainability of the U.S. necessitates the investment and development of crucial infrastructure and employment through domestic production and distribution of goods and services. A tariff on imports would deter businesses from exporting jobs where domestic workers have to compete with low-wage workers overseas and the exploitation of offshore labor and environmental regulations. The resultant trade surplus can then provide capital to invest in public works projects and contribute to economic prosperity for all.

9. Restructure the Agriculture Industry.

Agriculture is the largest industry in the world as food is the foundation of civilization, providing the basic sustenance for all of life. As a result of corporate dominance over the global food supply, the planet faces unsustainable and vast deforestation, the destruction of species and ecosystems, deterioration of freshwater resources, increases in global greenhouse gas emissions, and the desertification of 1/3 of the planet's land.



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Animal agriculture and the raising and eating of livestock are the greatest contributing factors of our current environmental crisis, accounting for 51% of human-caused climate change and over 30% of the world's water consumption. The meat and dairy industries produce more greenhouse gases than the fossil fuel intensive auto industry combined. We must become committed to reducing the methane emissions in the atmosphere through a public awareness campaign correlating dietary habits with its effects on the planet's resources.

A major restructuring of the agriculture industry is needed to restrict the large-scale corporate agriculture sector from environmental degradation. We support the creation of a systemic approach for the efficiency of food retention, soil regeneration techniques, widespread personal and community gardens, organics, local distribution networks, and sustainability.

Processed foods must be taxed and regulated at greater degrees and reinvested into the development of local organic farms as part of the green public works program. We endorse small-scale enterprises while progressively preventing consolidation and growth of monolithic food corporations. All production should be 100% sustainable and shift towards food self-sufficiency and optimal human health, while ensuring total transparency for products on the market in the favor of consumers.

### 10. Inheritance Cap for the Super-Rich.

One of the most significant systemic flaws in society is the stranglehold of economic prosperity by exclusive groups of private interests. It has become apparent that those with disproportionate levels of wealth and power have colluded to maintain their status quo at the expense of the vast majority.

A primary component enabling the formation of the elitist class is that enormous fortunes are passed down generation after generation, through accrued assets, resources, with banking dynasties inherited across historical eras. This intergenerational hoarding of wealth consolidates power in perpetuity, creating a restrictive feedback loop of unequal influence, and therefore a major component to overall economic inequality and class conflict.

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We support an inheritance cap for the super-rich, preventing vast fortunes from intergenerational accumulation. These assets and resources will be reinvested back into the well being of society, circulating back into the commonwealth for the greater good.

### 11. Transparent and Open Government.

Politicians and elected officials must be accountable to the people and not their campaign donors. The American people have been effectively silenced through the corruption of moneyed interests as corporate lobbyists and wealthy individuals exert unrestricted power and influence over spending priorities and public policy agendas.

We support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United. Power must be given back into the hands of the public, allowing for a human address of the needs of the people, whom must always remain priority over special interests. We must end cronyism, nepotism and revolving door politics by creating preventative measures against conflicts of interests.

Elections should be publicly funded, prohibiting political action committees and Super PACs from shaping political discussion and public policy. The people's right to self-governance necessitates their ability to collectively hold political power, paving the way for future progress in areas including: civil rights, labor rights, and environmental protection.

### 12. End Police Brutality, Private Prisons and the War on Drugs.

Police brutality and discrimination against communities of color must end. We support community policing, the demilitarization of police forces, external civilian oversight of police departments and greater judicial accountability. Law enforcement officials working to serve and protect our communities must do so with respect to the dignity and human rights of its citizens. We must take systematic steps to eradicate institutionalized racism, improving education and training for police personnel to become integrated as part of the community rather than peripheral as armed enforcers.

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We support eliminating for-profit imprisonment and a commitment to reducing prison populations. The U.S. has 5 percent of the world's population, but 25 percent of the world's prison population. Vulnerable groups of society including ethnic communities, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, cannot be placed in an exploitative system of privatized prisons contracted out to profit-driven corporations. Corporate lobbyists cannot continue to have influence over criminal law. Rehabilitation and public safety are responsibilities that should be handled by a federal parole system, not dictated by private interests. The prison system must be completely overhauled into centers for skills training, mental health services and general rehabilitation in order to reduce recidivism, decriminalize inmates and convert them into productive members of society.

The trillion-dollar war on drugs must end. For the last four decades, generations of young people have been jailed and imprisoned for low-level offenses, costing taxpayers \$80 billion annually on corrections and incarceration. We support the decriminalization of drugs and humanitarian policies that focus on treatment over prosecution.

### 13. Universal Human Rights.

Human rights are universal and inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status. We believe the highest aspiration for a nation is that its people are treated with inherent dignity, unequivocal civil, political, cultural, and economic rights, with equal access to opportunity. The principles of equality must be incorporated within our legal system and discriminatory laws abolished.

We support a Universal Human Rights amendment that constitutionally confirms the full spectrum of human rights for everyone, a contract between our government and its people that upholds the right for all to full participation and social inclusion. Human rights commissions must be established to provide oversight monitoring and promote compliance. Every individual including: children, women, ethnic groups, LGBTQ, and immigrants should be recognized equally before the law, without discrimination or persecution.

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The United States must become committed to being a global leader on human rights, including the ratification of principal international human rights treaties and conventions that protect the rights of vulnerable populations around the world. Legal protection of human rights must be enforceable by U.S. court systems; ensuring domestic policies are consistent with international human rights standards. We support the formal ratification of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly, providing fundamental universally protected rights, which form the basis for a humane and equitable society.