



Jamaicans for Justice Social and Economic Justice Project

Introduction to Economic & Social Rights



Website: www.jamaicansforjustice.org

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What are our rights to...

- Proper housing
- A healthy environment
- Owning property and land
- Earning an income ...





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What are our rights to...

- Adequate Clothing
- Social Security
- Education
- Food and water
- Health care ...





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Definitions

- **Social Rights**

- Deals with your right to a certain living standard. This includes (among other things) your right to: employment, education, health care, social security, housing, food, water, and clothing, safe environmental conditions.

- **Social Justice**

- Is a situation in which people receive fair treatment and a just share of social benefits.



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Definitions

- **Economic Rights**

- Deals with your right of access to resources such as land, labour, and money, which are important factors in producing goods and services for sale.

- **Economic Justice**

- Describes a situation in which economic institutions are designed to enable people to earn a living, enter into contracts, exchange goods and services with others, and gain economic independence.



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Adequate Living Standard

- **EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO AN ADEQUATE LIVING STANDARD**
- **Adequate Living Standard includes:**
 - Adequate food
 - Adequate medical care
 - Access to water
 - Adequate housing
 - Adequate clothing
 - Continuous improvement of living conditions
 - Access to necessary social services
 - Access to Social Security for conditions such as, unemployment, sickness, widowhood, disability, old age

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Adequate Food

- **NO ONE SHOULD BE HUNGRY**
- **The Government has a responsibility:**
 - To improve ways of producing, conserving, and distributing food
 - To make note of the problems of food importing and exporting countries

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Adequate Health care

- **EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH.**
- **The Government has a responsibility:**
 - To provide for healthy development of children
 - To reduce infant mortality rate
 - To reduce still-birth rate
 - To improve environmental and industrial hygiene
 - To prevent, treat, and control diseases
 - To provide (for everyone) access to medical service and attention when sick

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Social Security

- **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY & INSURANCE**
- **The Government has a responsibility:**
 - The family should be given the widest possible protection and assistance, especially while caring for and educating dependent children
 - Marriage should be agreed upon by both parties
 - Special protection to mothers (appropriately) before and after childbirth
 - Paid leave or adequate social security for mothers during childbirth
 - Special measures to protect & assist children and young people
 - Protection for children from economic & social exploitation
 - Punishment for persons who employ children in harmful work
 - Age limits for employment

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Education

- **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION**
 - Education should develop human personality and dignity
 - Education should improve respect for human rights and freedoms
 - Education should prepare people to participate (effectively) in a free society
 - Education should prepare people to understand, tolerate, be friendly with people of other religious groups, nations, and race
 - Education should promote peace



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Education

- **The Government has a responsibility:**
 - To make primary education free and mandatory
 - To make (the different types of) secondary education available and accessible
 - To make tertiary (college) education equally accessible, on the basis of ability
 - To encourage and intensify fundamental education
 - To develop a school system at all levels
 - To create a financial source for maintaining and improving school facilities and teaching aides
 - To respect parents & guardians right to choose schools that uphold their religious principles

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Work

- **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO EARN HIS/HER LIVING BY WORK**
 - Everyone should enjoy just and favourable working conditions
 - Wages should be fair and there should be equality of payment
 - Wages should provide decent living conditions
 - Working conditions should be safe and healthy
 - Equal opportunity for promotion on the basis of competence & seniority
 - Limited working hours, occasional & public holidays with pay, rest & leisure



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Work

- **The Government has a responsibility:**
 - To provide technical & vocational guidance and training programmes
 - To develop policies & techniques to achieve economic, social and cultural development and full and full and productive employment



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Trade Unions

- **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FORM & JOIN TRADE UNIONS**
 - Trade unions can join international trade unions and national federations
 - Strike is legal, but in conformity with national laws



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For further information contact:

St. Rachel Ustanny, M.Sc. B.Sc. (Hons.)
Community Educator/ Advocacy Specialist
Social & Economic Justice Project
2 Fagan Avenue
Kingston

876-755-4524
rachelhay@yahoo.com