

RESOLUTION: Guaranteeing and Furthering Socio-Economic Rights

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WHEREAS, the Society for the Study of Social Problem (SSSP)'s purpose includes "to foster higher quality of life [and] social welfare;"ⁱ and,

WHEREAS, SSSP affirms the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,ⁱⁱ recognizing that human have inherent dignity that must be afforded to us; and,

WHEREAS, human flourishing requires basic needs are met, such as nourishment (e.g., nutritious food and clean water), shelter (e.g., safe and stable housing), clothing, quality and comprehensive healthcare, safe and healthy working conditions and rights to collective bargaining, educational equity and access, from preschool through postsecondary education, and highspeed internet access; and,

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, yet also one of the most unequal;ⁱⁱⁱ and,

WHEREAS, over 1 in 10 U.S.-Americans are below the official poverty rate, and poverty rates and impacts differ across the country by various social locations and their intersections (e.g., race, citizenship, disability status, population density, gender, sexuality);^{iv} and,

WHEREAS, life expectancy in the United States is declining;^v and

WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized in his 1944 State of the Union that the current Bill of Rights on its own is insufficient, and that U.S.-Americans also require basic economic rights;^{vi} and,

WHEREAS, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted in 1966, on behalf of the United States;^{vii} and,

WHEREAS, in 2021, Congresspersons Alma Adams, Jan Schakowsky, and Ilhan Omar introduced legislation to the 117th Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to guarantee U.S.-Americans' rights to housing, health care, education, and nutrition;^{viii}

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that SSSP affirms it is the U.S. government's obligation to guarantee its residents basic socio-economic rights; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that SSSP urges the U.S. Senate to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that SSSP urges Congress to propose amending the U.S. constitution to guarantee basic economic rights; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that SSSP urges candidates for public office in the United States, including the 2024 U.S. presidential candidates, to support the above initiatives, to declare that basic socio-economic needs are human rights everyone deserves without exception, and to recognize this in their platforms through a robust policy agenda to end unnecessary suffering and support human flourishing; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, that SSSP will share a copy of this resolution with the President of the United States of America, Speaker of the U.S. House, U.S. House Majority Leader, U.S. House Minority Leader, U.S. Senate President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate Democratic Leader, and U.S. Senate Republican Leader.^{ix}

ⁱ https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/453/Who_We_Are

ⁱⁱ https://www.sssp1.org/file/2019Approved_Resolutions.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/23/business/united-states-is-the-richest-country-in-the-world-and-it-has-the-biggest-wealth-gap.html>,
https://www.allianz.com/en/economic_research/publications/specials_fmo/global-wealth-report.html

^{iv} <https://www.americanprogress.org/data-view/poverty-data/>,
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-poverty-well-being/>

^v <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/03/25/1164819944/live-free-and-die-the-sad-state-of-u-s-life-expectancy>

^{vi} <https://www.fdrlibrary.org/address-text>

^{vii} <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/united-nations-remarks-signing-international-covenants-human-rights>

^{viii} <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-joint-resolution/20>

^{ix} Contact list provided by authors of resolution.