

Global Distributist Charter

Global Distributists

2023-04-04

Preamble

We, the people and organizations dedicated to the principles of Distributism, join together in our commitment to create a just, sustainable, and equitable global society rooted in universal values of compassion, love, kindness, and forgiveness. Recognizing our shared responsibility to one another and to the Earth, we pledge to promote widespread ownership, local autonomy, social justice, and ecological responsibility, transcending religious, cultural, and political boundaries. We acknowledge our imperfections and embrace the power of forgiveness in our collective journey towards a better world. This Global Distributist Charter serves as a guiding framework for our efforts to work in solidarity to advance these shared principles and goals.

1 Principles of Distributism

1. **Subsidiarity:** Decisions and policies should be made at the most local level possible, empowering communities and individuals to have a direct say in matters that affect them.
2. **Widespread Ownership:** Economic systems should be designed to encourage the widest distribution of productive property, such as land, tools, and capital, to promote economic self-sufficiency and autonomy.
3. **Human Dignity:** All individuals have the right to live with dignity, to be treated fairly, and to have access to the resources needed to lead fulfilling lives.
4. **Economic Justice:** The economy should serve the needs of all people, not just a select few, and should foster fair distribution of wealth, opportunity, and power.
5. **Environmental Stewardship:** We are called to care for our planet and its finite resources, ensuring that we meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2 Goals and Strategies

1. Encourage Localism: Promote policies that support local economies, small businesses, and community-owned enterprises.
2. Foster Co-operatives: Encourage the creation and growth of co-operative enterprises, which embody the principles of shared ownership, democratic decision-making, and fair distribution of wealth.
3. Promote Economic Democracy: Advocate for worker-owned businesses, employee stock ownership plans, and other models that empower workers and create more equitable economic structures.
4. Advocate for Land Reform: Pursue policies that address land concentration and enable greater access to land and natural resources for marginalized communities and individuals.
5. Support Family and Community: Strengthen the social fabric of communities by promoting strong families, accessible education, and social safety nets.
6. Ensure Access to Basic Needs: Advocate for universal access to healthcare, education, housing, and other essential services, regardless of income or social status.
7. Protect the Environment: Pursue sustainable development and environmental stewardship through responsible resource management, renewable energy, and ecological conservation.

3 Cooperation and Solidarity

1. Foster Collaboration: Build networks of cooperation and mutual support among distributist organizations, practitioners, and advocates around the world.
2. Share Knowledge and Best Practices: Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and innovations among distributists, helping to identify and propagate successful models of distributist economies and societies.
3. Engage in Advocacy: Work collectively to advocate for distributist policies and principles at local, national, and global levels.
4. Promote Education and Awareness: Raise awareness about the principles and potential benefits of distributism through public education, media outreach, and community engagement.

4 Signatories

By adopting this Global Distributist Charter, we pledge to work together to realize the principles of distributism, to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world, and to respect the inherent dignity of every human being. Together, we will strive to create a global society where all people have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the common good. (Approved 2023-04-04)