

THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO



“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 183rd meeting, held in Paris on the 10th December, 1948.

Preamble:

The People's Campaign for Equality, Jobs, and Justice is a coalition of concerned people of goodwill who have joined together to give voice to the condition of the country. As a group we are concerned with the growing frustration and mistrust of the political process in view of the continued rise in unemployment, growing gap between haves and have nots, and the unequal burden of sacrifice being placed on the lowest and the least.

This coalition out of a shared love and concern for the country feel the need to speak in an effort to reset the moral compass of the island and its leaders around a set of core issues. The people have formulated this Manifesto in order to guide those who represent them so that they cannot continue to implement policies in the name of the people that do not serve the interests of the people.

From its origins, Bermuda has existed under a system driven by mercantile interests, viewing people as a means to a profitable end. This People's Manifesto demands systemic change for the benefit of the people. The narrow confines of the centuries old business centered system that privileges the narrow interests of the few over the many is incompatible with the enduring, fundamental principles of Equality, Jobs and Justice. 405 years of history tells us that this cannot be achieved without systemic change and the establishment of core principles upon which to build a new foundation for the empowerment of the People.

EQUALITY

All people are equal and are entitled to equal treatment

1. Every Bermudian should have the opportunity for post secondary education and should not be prevented from attaining education due to lack of funding.
2. The Government must implement an equitable taxation system that would structure taxation based upon levels of total income and the value of assets and holdings.
3. Quality healthcare must be accessible and affordable to all.
4. All Bermudians must have equal treatment under the law: the criminal justice system and the civil legal system must be accessible irrespective of financial well-being and must be administered at all levels in a manner that truly demonstrates that justice is blind.

JOBS

All people are entitled to a job with a livable wage

5. Every person should be entitled to a livable wage in proportion to the cost of living. That is to say, a wage that permits its citizens to meet primary needs of food, shelter, clothing, healthcare and from a primary source of employment.
6. Full employment for Bermudians must be a national priority.
7. The Government must hold all employers accountable so that all workers will be respected and afforded the same standards and working conditions.
8. All workers must have the right to join Unions or form associations to defend their rights.

JUSTICE

The Government is the servant of the people and the people of Bermuda entrust the Government to ensure that all of its people are treated equally, have equal opportunities, and must have equal protection under the law.

9. The Government must implement a program specifically designed to provide true economic opportunities for persons who historically have been prevented access.
10. The Government must establish regulatory constraints over the market to ensure that the business community share the sacrifices and participate in practices that serve the common good recognizing that the economy must serve the people and not the other way around.
11. Equal rights must be the same for ALL citizens in Bermuda, as such age cannot be a barrier for access to services, capital, and employment.
12. The Government does not own public property but holds it in trust on behalf of the people and therefore should exercise proper stewardship that protects the assets of the people against privatization.

In conclusion, the people of Bermuda are entitled to expect that those who are entrusted to lead them will be guided by the will of the people, and make decisions based upon priorities that are consistent with the expectations, hopes and aspirations of ALL of the people.