Food Sovereignty and Socialism

Food is a human right, every human being should be able to access the means to nourish themselves and their families. It should not be restricted from any human being on the basis of lack of payment, and any society that claims to call itself moral must allow the distribution of necessary goods to be controlled by the needs of the people. In order for this to be the case, the people must take the production and distribution of food into their own hands, and out of the hands of big corporations and private interests.

Socialism is a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole. The social production of food should be controlled by the people who collectively produce with the goal of meeting social needs, not by a small handful of large private institutions with only profit in mind.

For example in Cuba, a socialist country, food is a right guaranteed to all people. Despite its relative poverty due to the US embargo and vulnerability to natural disasters, it provides a high standard of food production, centered on cooperatives and other community-oriented forms of agriculture. Food is produced to feed the people, not to make a profit.

No one should sit hungry outside of a full grocery store simply because they do not have the money to pay, despite the fact that one third of the food produced globally goes to waste. No child should go hungry because their family is low-income and their school lunch is not free, despite billions being spent on the military and police. No community should go underserved because it is not profitable to feed them. This is not the kind of world we want to live in, and we invite you to join us in the struggle against poverty, injustice, and inequality.

The Student Socialist League of the Oklahoma People's Party
Food Insecurity under Capitalism

Tens of millions of people in the U.S. live in “food deserts”, areas without reliable access to affordable and good-quality fresh food, which disproportionately affects black and brown communities who are underserved and overlooked by the government and private interests.

Millions of children and families living in America face hunger and food insecurity every day, and more than 35 million people experience hunger even if they are not enrolled in food assistance programs.

Food is produced socially, but the fruits of this social labor are appropriated privately by a small group of people. Food is distributed on the basis of individual profit, not human need. Food sovereignty is the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods and distributed on the basis of need, not profit.

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Food Sovereignty, Mutual Aid and Socialism

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Mutual Aid

Mutual aid is a form of solidarity-based support, in which community members support each other in their struggles against a common enemy. Mutual aid can combat food insecurity when members of the community take control of various stages of the food production and distribution process – from growing the food to the final consumption. Mutual aid can help combat food insecurity when members of the community take control of various stages of the food production and distribution process – from growing the food to the final consumption.

Food Insecurity under Capitalism

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the pitiful capacity of our economic and political system. The poorest and the most vulnerable people in the world are the hardest hit by the pandemic. The United States has one of the highest rates of hunger and food insecurity in the world, despite its immense wealth. There is no reason why the richest and most powerful country in the world cannot provide for its people in times of need. The Trump Administration, the Federal

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