

**BASIC INCOME  
SUPPORT NOW!**

## **We demand that government provide permanent Basic Income Support for those aged 18 to 59 years who have little or no income!**

A shrinking economy and Covid-19 made unemployment, poverty, and inequality worse. Government introduced social relief measures to buffer the negative impact of the pandemic. One of the measures was the R350 Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant for the unemployed, including caregivers, which was a significant intervention and an acknowledgement by government that the unemployed cannot support themselves. Following pressure by civil society, the grant has been extended until March 2024.



## **BLACK SASH DEMANDS THAT GOVERNMENT:**

- 1** Implement permanent social assistance for those aged 18 to 59 valued at the upper-bound poverty line of R1,558.00 per month, including those who receive a child support grant;
- 2** Reinstate the COVID-19 grant increases of R250 per month and make it permanent for all social grants;
- 3** Ensure that the above demands apply to refugees, permanent residents, asylum seekers and migrant workers with special permits; and
- 4** Work towards a universal basic income!

## **IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS**

### **BASIC INCOME SUPPORT**

Basic Income Support is a grant for those between 18 and 59 years who receive no or little income in a context where it is difficult to find jobs

### **UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME GRANT**

Universal Basic Income Grant is money paid on a regular basis by the government to every person living in South Africa. It does not matter whether they are or want to be employed or not, whether they are rich or poor, or what their age is.



## CHARACTERISTICS OF UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME



### Universal

It should be open to all



### Individual

It caters to individuals,  
not a family or other unit



### Unconditional

There are no conditions you  
need to meet to qualify for it



### Dignifying

The income must be an amount  
high enough to ensure one can exist  
with dignity and be able to  
participate in society

Given that South Africa has limited work opportunities for the unemployed, we need an all-inclusive social security programme that provides people with their basic human rights. The SRD grant is a sign that government recognises that it is difficult to find jobs, and that job creation must be paired with providing social grants for the unemployed. The grant is the first step towards a social assistance programme for the unemployed, now government must work towards a permanent Basic Income Grant.

## Government's legal obligations

The Constitution is the supreme law of South Africa. Government has a constitutional obligation under Section 27 of the Constitution to progressively realise the right to social assistance for those unable to support themselves. Government also legally agreed to the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The ICESCR recommended that "those between the ages of 18 and 59 with little or no income have access to social assistance" and that government consider a universal basic income grant for everyone. Government must implement these laws with urgency!

## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Sign our petition on  
[Amandla.mobi](https://www.amandla.mobi) and  
share on social media  
using #18to59 years

Visit [www.blacksash.org.za](http://www.blacksash.org.za) or  
email [bis@blacksash.org.za](mailto:bis@blacksash.org.za)  
to find out more

