

# THE INTERDEPENDENCE PROJECT — PART I

**A New Promise to One Another**

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Grounded in the Five Pillars of Freedom — Security, Purpose, Relationships, Contribution, and Autonomy — this manifesto is our shared commitment to building a society where every person can live with dignity, freedom, and a genuine voice in their future.

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## A HUMAN NEEDS FRAMEWORK

### **The Five Pillars of Freedom are grounded in what people need to live free, well, and safe.**

Sadly, current political rhetoric is designed to divide people. Both the political left and right speak about freedom, safety, opportunity, and community. But both routinely substitute their preferred policies as the solution rather than addressing the underlying need itself — and then attack all alternatives. Whether the policy works or not is beside the point. The rhetoric makes it too contentious to reach agreement. The real needs of our families and communities are ignored while the battle continues.

The Five Pillars interrupt this cycle. Each pillar represents a human condition necessary for us to experience real freedom. They identify the need directly, hold governance accountable to meeting it, and leave the debate over how to meet it where it belongs — in the realm of evidence and democratic deliberation, not tribal loyalty.

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#### THE MANIFESTO

As a society, we want each person to have an opportunity for a successful life. Democracy offers the best path forward — because it allows people to participate, share power, and hold leaders accountable to the needs of everyone. Democracy works best when people take part, speak honestly, and share a common understanding of truth.

**We propose something simple and radical:** that Government exists to protect people and to safeguard their basic human rights — not to serve the wealthy, impose a religion, or be captured by those with enough money to buy it.

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#### THE FIVE PILLARS OF FREEDOM

*Each pillar represents a human condition necessary for real freedom.*

### **SECURITY — The Foundation of Life**

*Meeting basic needs: food, shelter, healthcare, safety, and ecological stability*

Security means every person has reliable access to what they need to survive and thrive. Healthcare, childcare, housing, and education are not privileges — they are the foundations of freedom. Ecological stability and climate justice are inseparable from physical security. People must be able to live free from fear, without surveillance, coercion, or intimidation.

*Real freedom means you can see a doctor when you're sick, without dreading the bill. A roof that won't be lost. Food on the table. Medication you can afford. Not luxuries — the foundation every free person deserves.*

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## **PURPOSE — The Foundation of Meaning**

*Meaningful work and opportunity that give life direction*

Purpose means having meaningful work or activity that gives structure, dignity, and direction to life — including caregiving, community service, artistic creation, learning, and civic participation. Everyone has a real opportunity to thrive, unconstrained by poverty or lack of essential needs. The economy is designed to serve human well-being, not profit margins or concentrated wealth.

*Real freedom means you can choose work that matters to you — not just work that keeps your insurance. It means a paycheck that actually covers your life. It means your skills and your effort are valued.*

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## **RELATIONSHIPS — The Foundation of Belonging**

*Family, community, and social trust*

Relationships are the bonds that hold societies together — family, friendship, community, and civic connection. A government committed to human flourishing invests in the conditions that allow relationships to thrive. Race, religion, gender, and identity are honored as sources of dignity, never used to divide or harm. Peace guides public policy, fostering cooperation within our communities and across the world.

*Real freedom means you have time for the people you love. Stable housing. Childcare you can afford. A family that isn't one crisis away from falling apart.*

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## **CONTRIBUTION — The Foundation of Civic Life**

*Civic participation and democratic engagement*

Contribution means every person has a real and meaningful role in shaping the society they live in — through caregiving, civic engagement, organizing, and the work of building public life. Public education is grounded in truth — science, history, and critical thinking, free from censorship and misinformation. Public institutions are transparent, ethical, and accountable, with no special rules for the wealthy or powerful.

*Real freedom means your voice actually counts. A vote that can't be suppressed. Leaders who answer to you. Schools that teach truth. Institutions accountable to everyone.*

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## **AUTONOMY — The Foundation of Freedom**

*Personal freedom and protection from domination*

Autonomy means the freedom to live according to one's own values, identity, and choices — free from domination by the state, the employer, the landlord, or the majority. Democracy works when every vote counts, voices matter, and power is accountable to the whole community.

*Real freedom means the decisions about your life are yours. Your body. Your home. Your data. Your future. Without your employer, your landlord, or the ultra-wealthy making those choices for you.*

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**These are not privileges. They are the conditions of human flourishing — and they are the measure by which any honest government must be held accountable.**

## WE STAND FOR A SOCIETY WHERE

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- › Healthcare, childcare, housing, and education are essential foundations of freedom
- › People live free from fear — with privacy protected, free from surveillance, coercion, or intimidation
- › Race, religion, gender, and identity are honored as sources of dignity, never used to divide, control, or harm
- › Public education is based on truth — science, history, and critical thinking — without censorship or misinformation
- › Democracy works when every vote counts, when voices matter, and when power is accountable to the whole community
- › The economy is designed to serve the well-being of people — not profit margins, shareholder value, or greed
- › Public institutions are transparent and ethical, with no special rules for the wealthy, the powerful, or the connected
- › Everyone has a real opportunity to thrive, and no one's life is constrained by poverty or lack of essential needs
- › Peace is the focus of government policy — building bridges in our local and global communities through cooperation, not coercion

### **Our Promise**

We promise to work together to build a society where truth guides us, power is shared, and every person can live with dignity, freedom, and a meaningful voice in shaping their future. All reforms under this framework assume lawful, democratic, and non-violent transformation.