

A Declaration of Human Agency After Economic Necessity

When the labor of human beings no longer commands a price, and machines can produce the means of life without our toil, the old bargains of survival dissolve. We therefore declare the principles by which personal freedom and human flourishing may still be secured.

We hold these truths to be self-evident:

That no person shall be made to labor under threat of hunger, exposure, or destitution.

That the fruits of automated abundance belong, in their first claim, to every living person as a birthright, not as a wage or a favor.

That freedom consists first in the power to refuse, and second in the power to choose among real alternatives.

That flourishing requires more than consumption: it requires autonomy, competence, relatedness, and the possibility of earned distinction.

That power which does not decay becomes tyranny, whether it is held by owners of machines or by administrators of the surplus.

Article I. The Floor

Every person is entitled to an unconditional material and computational floor sufficient for a dignified life: shelter, nourishment, health, energy, and a personal allotment of machine labor or compute that may be used, exchanged, or given away. This floor is infrastructure, not charity. It is the condition of all subsequent liberty.

Article II. The Claim

The productive capital that renders human labor obsolete shall not be the hereditary property of a few. Broad, non-dynastic claims upon that capital—shares, compute rights, or residual dividends—shall be distributed so that no person remains a permanent client of those who own the factories of abundance.

Article III. The Remaining Scarcities

Calories and housing may become cheap; land, unique human attention, witnessed excellence, first presence in new domains, and the regard of others will not. These scarcities shall be allocated by open contest, reputation that decays, and voluntary association, not by inheritance or administrative decree.

Article IV. Contribution Without Coercion

No adult shall be compelled to perform make-work in order to eat. Recognition, access to positional goods, and standing in communities may be earned through contribution, craft, care, discovery, or mastery. Such rewards shall be designed to fade unless renewed, so that no class of beneficiaries becomes a permanent aristocracy of impact.

Article V. Plurality and Exit

No single schedule of incentives shall be imposed upon all. Communities may organize themselves according to different weights of competition, gift, status, or communion, provided

they respect the floor, the right of exit, and the prohibition on coercion. Difference is not a defect; it is the condition of a free people.

Article VI. Against Capture

Any institution that concentrates lasting power over the surplus, the remaining scarcities, or the terms of recognition violates the spirit of this Declaration. Power must decay. Transparency must be the default. The sacred thing is lived experience, not the optimization of any single metric.

We do not declare that all will flourish equally. We declare that none shall be denied the material conditions of choice, nor the open field in which to exercise their capacities, nor the right to walk away from any arrangement that does not serve them.

Let these principles stand as the compact of a species that has outgrown the necessity of selling its hours, and now must decide what else it is for.