



SOCIAL
JUSTICE
IRELAND

BASIC INCOME

RADICAL UTOPIA

OR

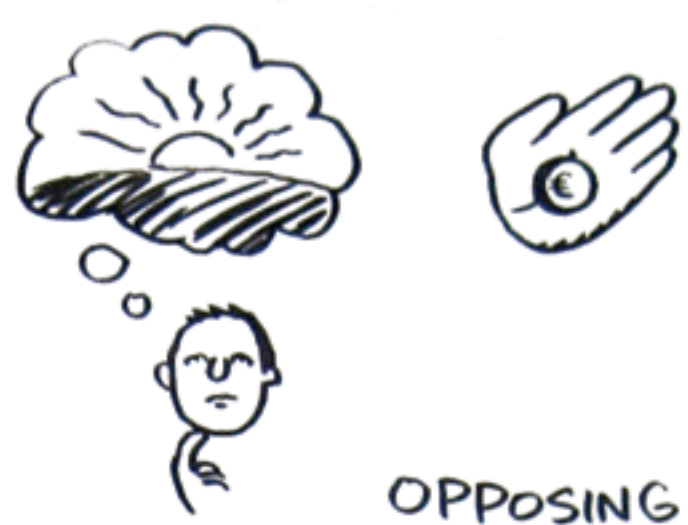
PRACTICAL SOLUTION?

22ND NOVEMBER 2016

CROKE PARK
CONFERENCE
CENTRE,
DUBLIN



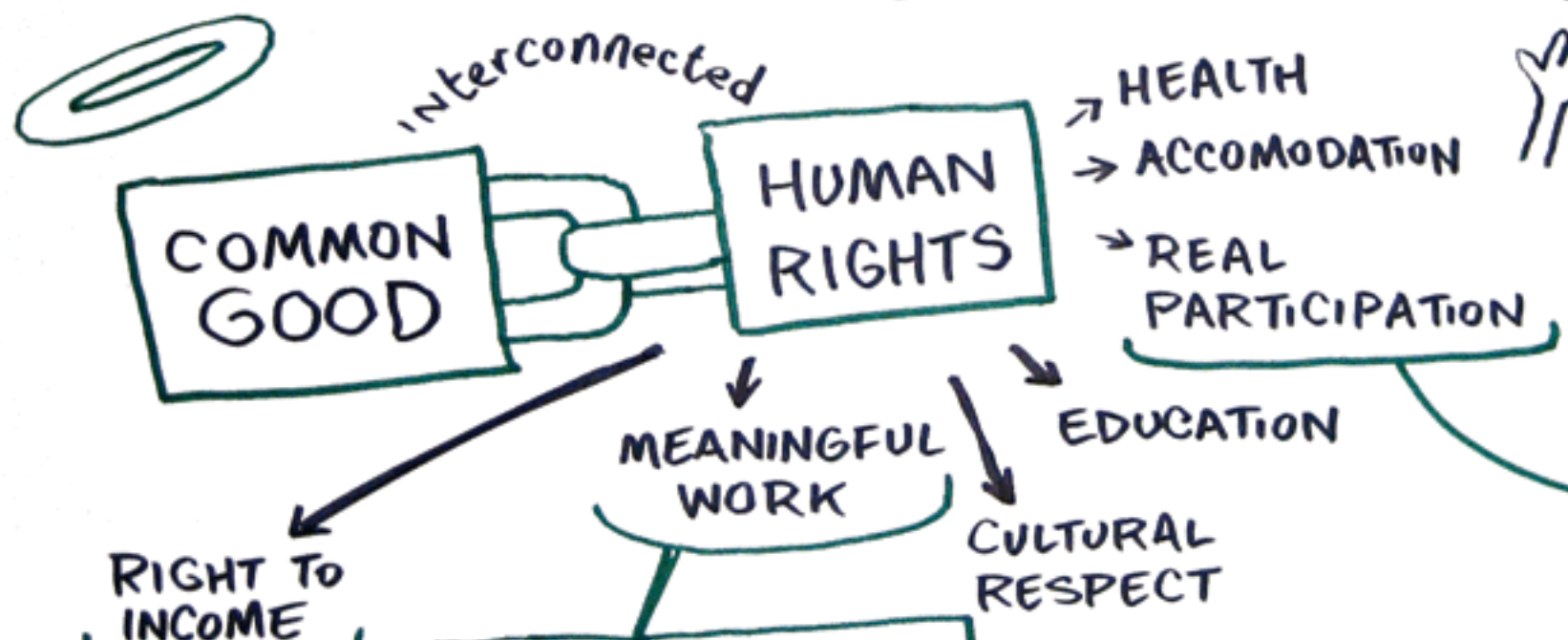
BASIC INCOME
 RADICAL UTOPIA
 OR PRACTICAL
 SOLUTION?
 ↳ SEÁN HEALY
 & BRIGID REYNOLDS



OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS



MARSHALL



RIGHT TO INCOME
 Regardless of access to Technology
 or Bargaining Power

MORE THAN PAID EMPLOYMENT





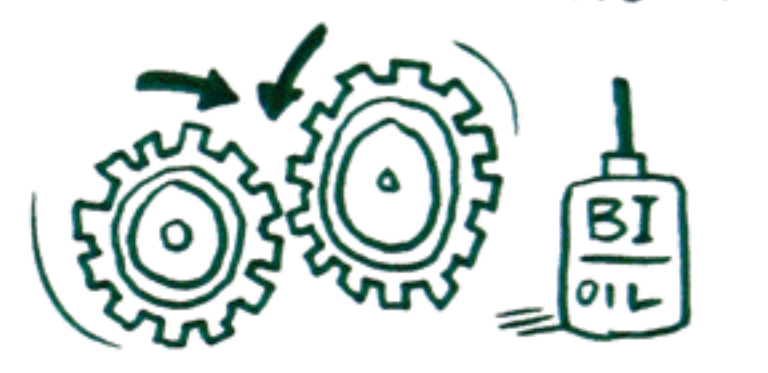
BASIC INCOME:
Enough
to live

DISMANTLING
POPULIST
OBJECTIONS
e.g. **TAX**

A floor under
everyone

BASIC INCOME

liberating
people

ACTUALLY
VERY EFFICIENT




HOUSING
ISSUES IN
CURRENT
SYSTEM...


UNIVERSAL
HOUSING
BENEFIT?



HIGH
PER-CAPITA
WEALTH
IN IRELAND

DISPROPORTIONATELY
BENEFITS WEALTHY
HOWEVER

SOCIAL
WELFARE : 1
: 3

GOES
ON
TAXES...

IS IT FEASIBLE?

↳ MALCOLM TORRY

YES!

- UNCONDITIONAL
- NOT-WITHDRAWABLE



EACH INDIVIDUAL

? FEASIBLE?

FLEXICURITY

BRIDGING A GAP.



FINANCIAL

Citizens income or means-tested Benefits

a flexible job market with security



BOTH TOGETHER ARE MOST FEASIBLE

and

over time they fade away...

INEQUALITY

CHILD POVERTY

ELDERLY POVERTY
slight increase



We have to do it this way because of computerisation.

uh... OK



TECH HAS A LOT OF INFLUENCE

↳ PSYCHOLOGICAL FEASIBILITY



over time, attitudes change
e.g. marriage equality

↳ POLITICAL FEASIBILITY



DOES IT FIT WITHIN CONTEXT OF PARTY?



POLICY PROCESS

needs to have capacity to be incremental

ONE DEMOGRAPHIC AT A TIME



DIFFICULT especially working age adults

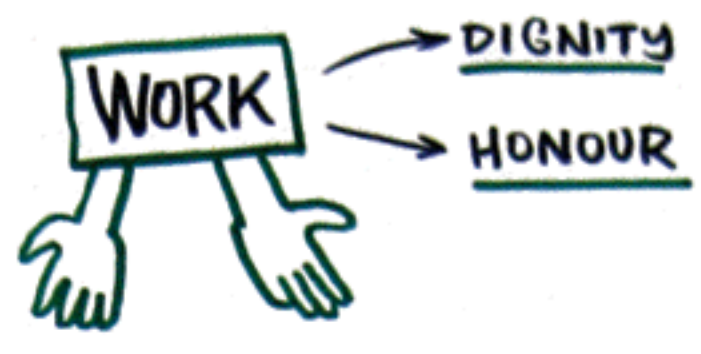


starting with aged?

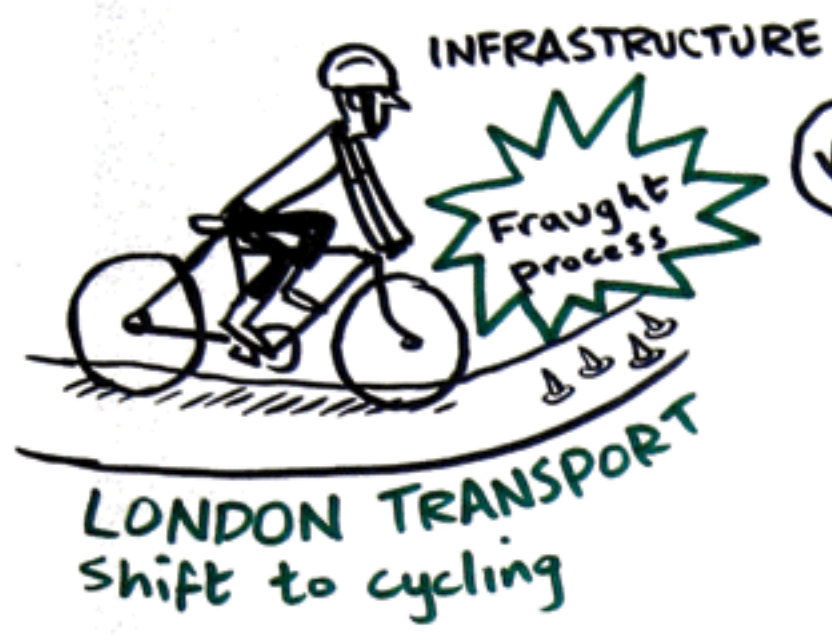
AFFECTS EVERYONE

CITIZENSHIP AND B.I.

↳ ANTHONY PAINTER



A TOUGH JOURNEY TO BUILD A NEW INSTITUTION



VS.

Creation of NORMS

What is Work now?

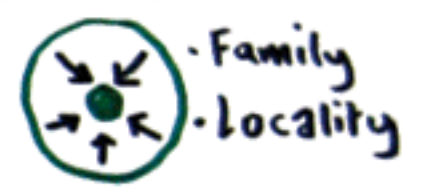
as in Copenhagen



Universality

VS

Communitarian values



Be wary of falling into this debate

① RISE of the ROBOTS changing world of work...



TASK BASED



② FREEDOM



SOCIETY & Common Good

don't be afraid to:

CALL OUT CURRENT SYSTEM FAILINGS



FILM: "I, DANIEL BLAKE"

TACKLING POVERTY & SOCIAL EXCLUSION WITH UNCONDITIONAL MONEY: NOTES ON A FINNISH EXPERIMENT

↳ Ville-Veikko Pulkka

BACKGROUND



assignment to explore & develop B.I.

OPTIONS EXAMINED:



DOES IT INCREASE EMPLOYMENT?



FULL B.I. Too expensive so Partial chosen for study



← THE TARGET

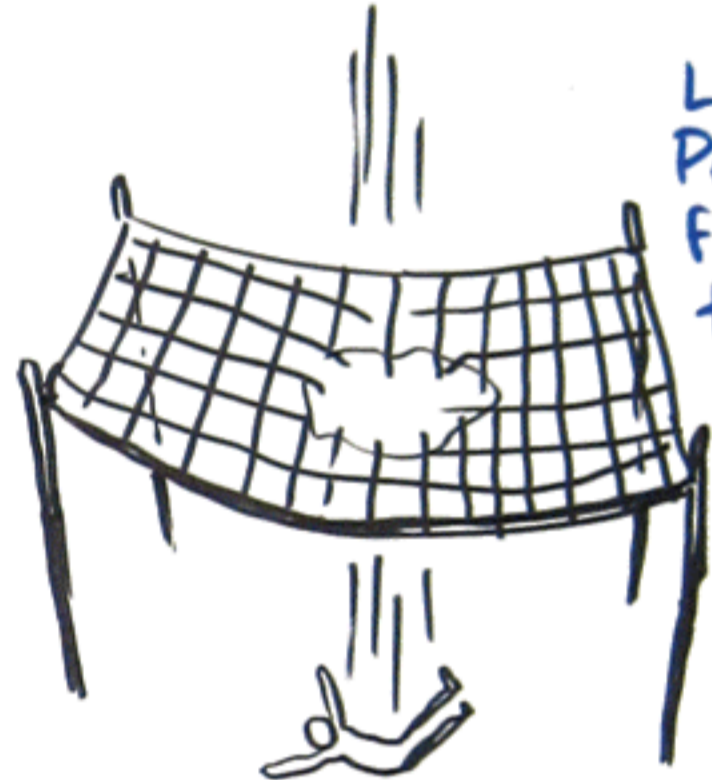
BUT

only



budget for 2 years

Focus on **LOW** income workers



LESS People falling through Social Security Net



Partial Payment



OUTCOME



A good start but a long way to go

Health well-being



Taking these measures into account

✗ many obvious criticisms

2018



may get an extension however

Not **JUST** an Experiment!

MUNICIPAL B.I. EXPERIMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

↳ Sjur Hoeyjmakers

WHERE FROM?



an article & T.V. program



↳ HUGE INTEREST GENERATED over last 3 years

People got involved:

- CITIZENS
- RESEARCHERS
- COUNCIL MEMBERS

MUNICIPAL LEVEL

↳ MORE FREEDOM Dealing with social assistance



BASIC INCOME CAN AVOID THIS SITUATION.



REQUIRED DUE TO POSITION OF MAIN POLITICAL PARTY (Conservative Liberals)

19 municipalities wanted to start experiments



EVENTUALLY a year later

Limited framework



LIMITING



STARTING SUMMER 2017

RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

↳ URSULA BARRY

WORK

Removing the concept from this box



WARINESS OF LINK HERE:



COMPULSORY SYSTEMS

SUBSIDIES



JOB as instrument of control and surveillance

CASH TRANSFERS

GLOBAL SOUTH example



- giving back control
- high value relative to cost

Feminist Perspective

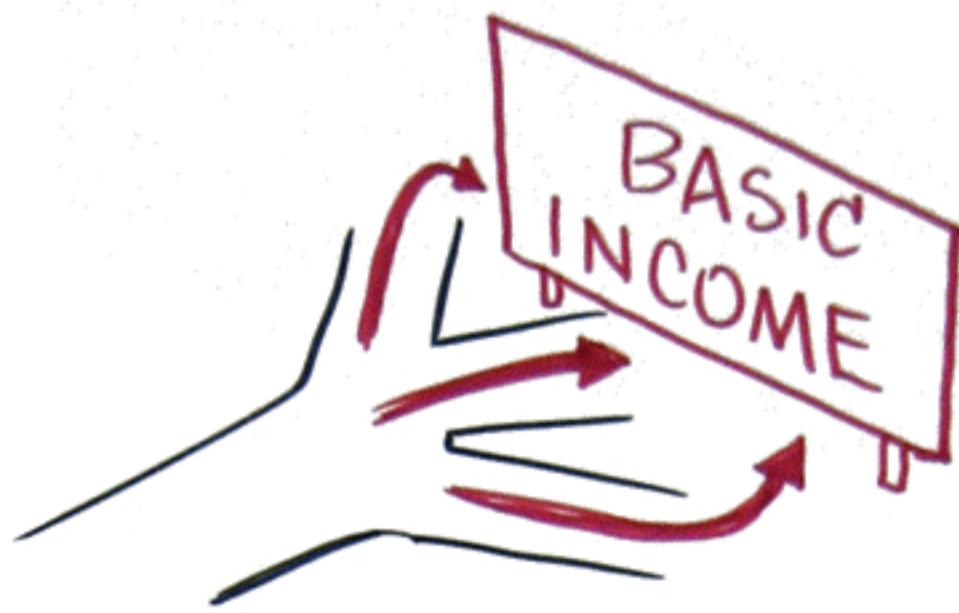


- Reinforcement of Gender Roles?

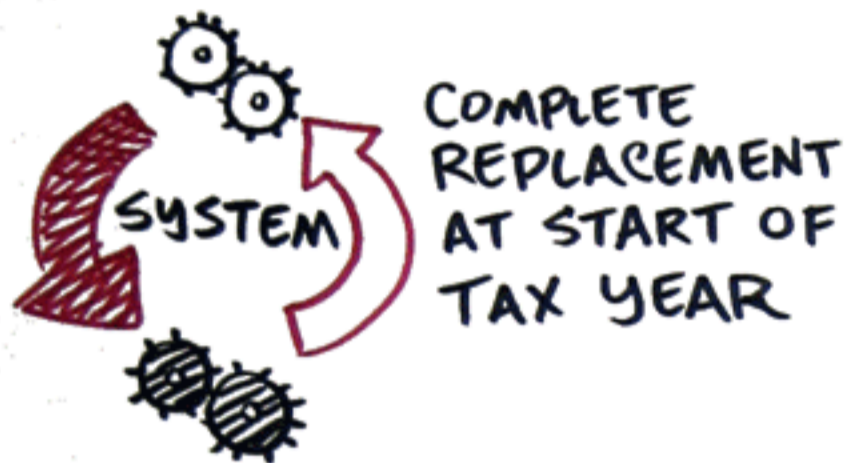
Ⓞ OR RECOGNITION of Care Labour?

PATHWAYS TO A BASIC INCOME SYSTEM

↳ MICHELLE MURPHY



① ALL-AT-ONCE



IRELAND REFORMS } conditions required

① UNIVERSAL PENSION
→ 66 and over { flat rate universal



② REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS

→ low paid benefit most

② BY GROUPS



IRELAND IMPLEMENTATION

5 year gradual



& Possible

③ PARTIAL

Some citizens Partial Income



GRADUALLY INCREASE

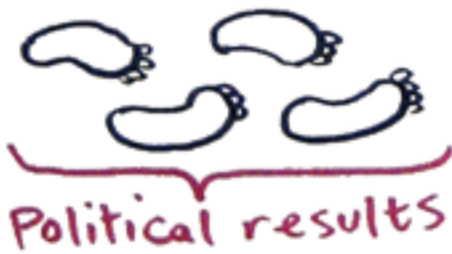


Government are aware

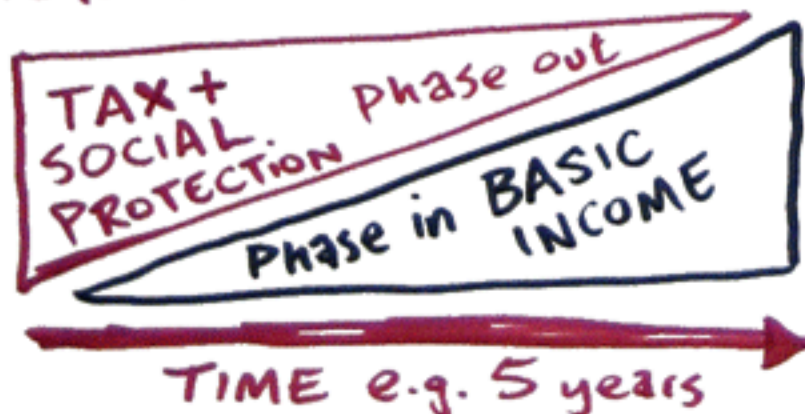
BI { ENABLING A FRUGAL LIFESTYLE
BUT PARTICULAR NEEDS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

④ ONE STEP AT A TIME

25 years +



⑤ GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION



BASIC INCOME & TRANSFORMATIVE STRATEGIES

↳ MICHAEL TAFT

AVOIDING EXPLOITATIVE JOBS

BUT CAUSING INCREASE IN WAGE EQUALITY?

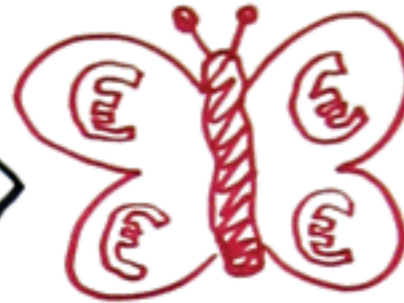


PUBLIC SPENDING ALREADY NEEDS TO INCREASE:

BIG BARRIER:



AVOIDANCE of systemic transformation



PUMP IT UP



Original goal of UNION organising

MAKE REDUCTION OF WORKING WEEK A GOAL



Social Insurance

Convert Personal Tax Credits



benefit low earners, part-timers, single parents



if more wages were paid towards Social Insurance, Benefits would be much greater.

BUT

V. expensive and only workers get benefits

i.e. **60%** of people

COST?

Less than **>2bn**

COSTING A BASIC INCOME FOR IRELAND

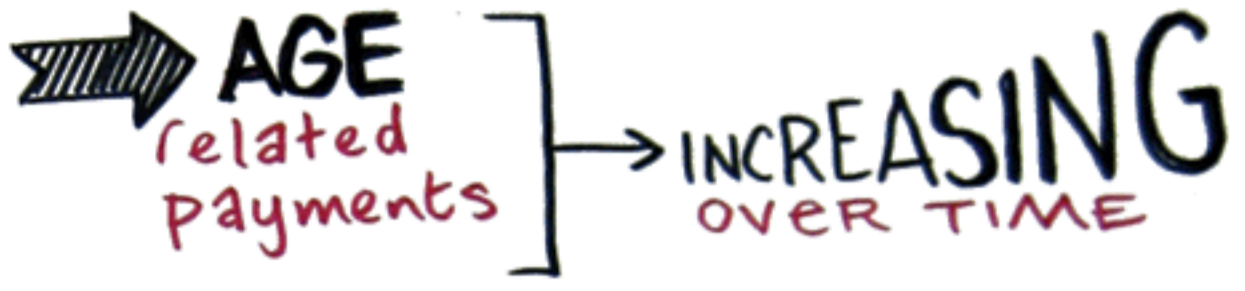
↳ EAMON MURPHY & SEÁN WARD

CONDITIONAL



- REPLACING CURRENT TAX SYSTEM
- ABOLISHING CURRENT SOCIAL WELFARE PAYMENTS

MAJOR SAVINGS IN ADMIN



€150 + €38

Everybody gets this

Actively seeking employment

40%

NEW TAX RATE PROPOSED

WHEN: All elements taken into account

[15K a year - 2K better off
60K a year - 3K better off



TAKING POVERTY TRAP OUT OF EQUATION

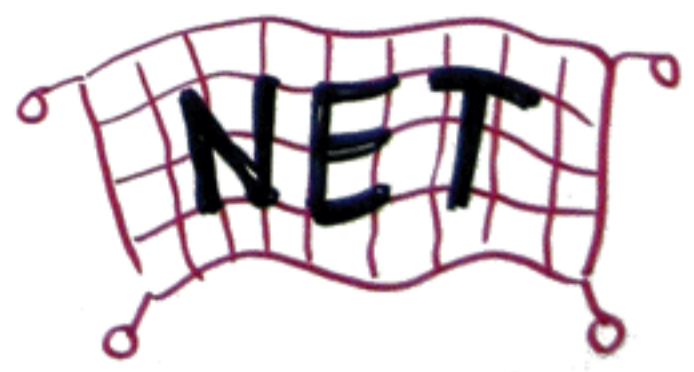


BROADENING

The TAX RATE

A FLOOR

Not a



RESPONSE TO THE IRISH PROPOSALS

↳ ROISIN MULLIGAN

BASIC INCOME IRELAND

WEIGHING UP



5 years

A fair timeline for gradual pathway



HUGELY HELPFUL IN TERMS OF PRESENTING ARGUMENT

BUT:



CONDITIONALITY A COMPROMISE...



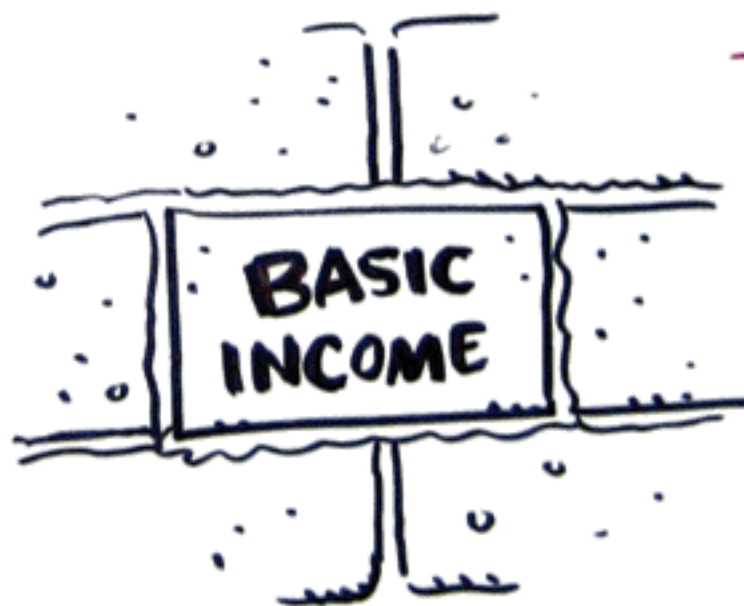
HOUSING SUBSIDY

+ ✓ DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE

✗ CURRENT SYSTEM



IS IT ACTUALLY ANY LESS COMPLEX?



A RE-INFORCING ELEMENT FOR OTHER POLICIES

SIMPLICITY of basic income



NOT A PANACEA!

A RIGHT TO HOUSING?

↳ RONAN LYONS



HUGE increase in Rents particularly DUBLIN & Surrounds

Noooooo!!!



Single rooms

4000



6000

from 2008 to now...

A RIGHT TO HOUSING?

DEMAND



SUPPLY



NOT A GOOD FIT.

UH...



ONE FOR EVERY T.D.

T.D.

MAJOR DISPARITY HERE...

2 adults, 2 kids



45K a year

→ 3000 a month after Tax

1000

for rent

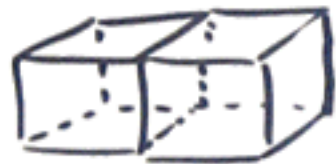
300

1300

break even rental cost

The GAP: Subsidy

New build



260K+ to build 2bed Apt.

only affordable by Top 10%...

minimum standards adding excessively to costs?



CONNECT THE DOTS

NEED

FIX COST problem

↳ why so expensive in Ireland?

POLICY Failure

MARKET Failure

PANEL DISCUSSION

■ MINIMUM WAGE if B.I. Introduced?

NO WAY!

• would allow Capital to accrue unfettered.

• Combination with other policies is important

• Value of Paid Labour

■ SCOPE for B.I. experiments in IRELAND?

DO IT IN ACHILL!

WHY NOT MAKE IT **WHOLE** OF IRELAND?



A SOCIAL INVESTMENT

A POLITICAL INVESTMENT

A ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT

BUT: Be wary of expectations of return...

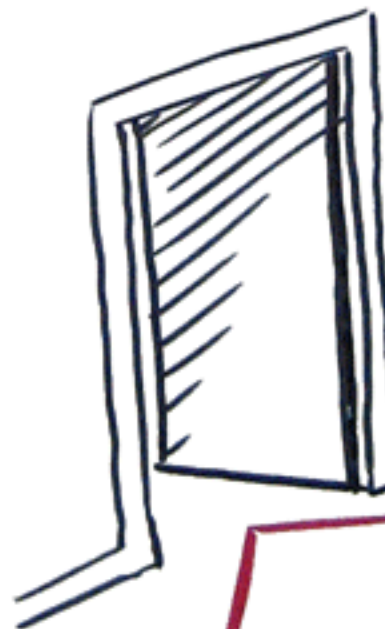
TRANSPARENCY
& FAIRNESS
A REQUIREMENT

↳ **RADICAL PART** is shift in mindset



POLITICAL FOOTBALL

DOORS ARE OPENING TO THE IDEA



A **CORNER-STONE** FOR A NEW PARADIGM

DITCH THE BULLIES

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE & SLAVERY

OI! Come back.

STUFF YOUR JOB!

