Money for Everyone: Why we need a Citizen's Income

by Malcolm Torry

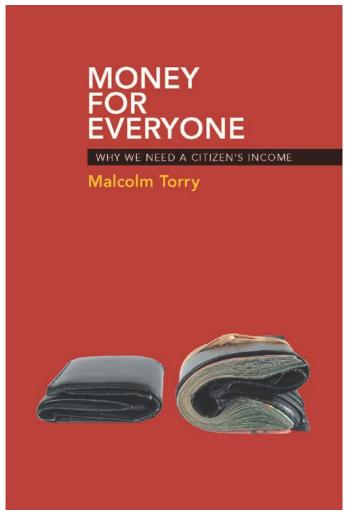
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Author Biography

Dr. Malcolm Torry is Director of the Citizen's Income Trust; he has first degrees in mathematics, theology, philosophy, and economics and management; and higher degrees in social policy and in theology. He has recently completed an honorary research fellowship in the Social Policy Department at the London School of Economics. He is Vicar of Holy Trinity, Greenwich Peninsula, in the Church of England Parish of East Greenwich.





Money for Everyone: yes, really.

If you are earning an income then you receive a tax allowance, so that on some of your income you don't pay tax. The tax allowance saves you about £50 a week. If instead of a tax allowance you were given a cash payment of £50 a week and you then paid tax on all of your earned income then you would end up with the same amount of money to spend.

If you are on means-tested benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, and you earn additional income, then your benefits are reduced. The combined effects of benefits being withdrawn and paying tax can mean that for every extra £1 earned a household can end up with only 15p extra to spend. When Universal Credit comes in this will increase to between 35p and 24p of every extra £1 earned.

Is this an incentive to seek a better job, or to look for work? No. And it needn't be like this. It is perfectly feasible to turn means-tested benefits into benefits that can't be taken away, and to turn tax allowances into cash payments, so that every citizen would end up with a Citizen's Income: an unconditional income that would never be reduced or removed.

As the book shows, the benefits to every citizen, to every household, to our society, and to our economy, would be considerable.

Book launch

If you would like an invitation to the book launch on Thursday 27th June at 6 p.m. in central London then please contact the Citizen's Income Trust on info@citizensincome.org.

