

# THE REAL WEALTH OF NATIONS PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVE

## A Strategy to Advance Healthy Economic Priorities

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In this acute economic crisis, new thinking and strategies are critical for transforming our economic systems towards a more just prosperity. By not investing enough in human infrastructure, starting in childhood, we harm our economies and our peoples' quality of life. Now is the time for a new framework for sound policies, based on metrics that measure the enormous return on investment that "caring economics" provides. The "Real Wealth of Nations Public Policy Initiative" helps our world's nations live up to their promise of peace, sustainability, and prosperity for all.

*Many nations have requirements for economic and environmental impact statements for evaluating proposed legislation and other policies. The Real Wealth of Nations Public Policy Initiative documents the need for statements measuring the effect of any program on our real wealth: people's health, education, equality, democracy, human capacity development, and other quality of life indicators (please see attached sample metrics). This initiative helps policymakers and grantmakers develop and publicize the necessary metrics to advance sound priorities. It is designed to shift funding in healthier, more realistic directions that also take into account the vital economic contributions of the household and volunteer sectors.*

The governing values for measuring and promoting the Real Wealth of Nations are:

- *Recognizing that the contributions of people are the real wealth of a nation— and hence the need to invest in human capacity development, starting in early childhood*
- *Recognizing that, especially for the post-industrial knowledge-information economy, our most important capital is high quality human capital*
- *Recognizing the need to give greater visibility and value to the work of caregiving in both the market and non-market economies*
- *Recognizing the value of investing in our human infrastructure for our world's families, communities, equality, democracy, and economic success*

Sample components of Real Wealth Impact Statements (RWIS) as measures of global social and economic health, drawing from existing indicators such as the UN Human Development Reports and new metrics to be developed, include:

### 1. Health

- pre-natal and childhood health rates
- infant and maternal mortality rates
- access to food, national nutritional standards, and drug safety
- emotional stress levels and drug/alcohol dependence levels
- workforce stress levels
- unwanted pregnancies and reproductive health care availability
- availability and quality of elder care

- over -

## 2. Families

- availability of parenting education in schools
- family violence levels and types of discipline in families
- teenage pregnancy rates and family planning programs
- equality between women and men
- recognition of nontraditional families
- tax credits, benefits, and retirement security for family caregivers

## 3. Education

- early childhood education: funding and participation in quality pre-school and kindergarten
- after-school and other youth programs
- level of access, resources, & opportunities based on race, gender, class, ability, age, geography, etc.
- school teacher pay and benefits, retention, job training, and continuing education
- comprehensive sex education, as well as education for mutually respectful relations

## 4. Workplaces

- paid vacation time, sick days, and parental leave
- childcare availability at worksites
- paycheck fairness and equal pay for comparable worth
- workplace recycling programs and environmental hazard protections
- right of workers to organize

## 5. Elderly

- programs to support community engagement of elders and continuing education
- local facilities, agencies, and other resources for aging with dignity
- adequate Social Security benefits that are equal and fair between women and men
- support for home care, chronic care management, and coordination of care programs

## 6. Democracy and Equality

- education for democracy in schools
- free media, including internet
- proportionate representation of women in national legislatures
- levels of voter registration, voter participation, and reliable vote counting
- entertainment and news media that do not perpetuate stereotypes, inequality, and violence
- fair credit and lending practices for equality of opportunity

## 7. Other Key Measures of Quality of Life

- poverty and hunger levels, broken out for women and families
- crime levels, broken out for violent and non-violent crimes
- quality of environment including toxicity levels, water quality, etc.
- enforcement of antidiscrimination laws on gender, race, ability, age, etc.
- equal valuing of “feminine” and “masculine” activities
- comparison of military spending with funding for human needs and opportunities

For more information, please see [www.rianeeisler.com](http://www.rianeeisler.com) or contact

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