

The Economic Crisis Presents Israel with an Opportunity to Make Needed Changes

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On the eve of the formation of a new government, the Adva Center is publishing a collection of short articles focusing on the economic and social lessons to be gleaned from the present financial and economic crisis.

In most parts of the world, the global crisis has been accompanied by a public debate not only around the question of how to overcome the crisis itself but also how socio-economic arrangements can be changed so that similar crises do not occur in the future, or so that their damages are reduced.

Among the recommendations:

- To renew and upgrade the state apparatus, which has been purposefully eroded since 1985, under the contention that "business is more efficient than government." Most government ministries, with the exception of the Ministries of Finance and Defense, are in need of revitalization.
- To engage in active policies to improve the status of workers by facilitating their organization in labor unions.
- To promote a living wage policy.
- To change the method of financing the National Health Insurance Law, so that it keeps up with technological developments.
- To require the pension funds to guarantee a minimum annual return of 4%, linked to the Consumers' Price Index.
- To create a new covenant between the state and its citizens whose essence is the recognition of affordable housing as a basic human right.
- To gender mainstream government policies and programming.
- To involve workers and their representatives in the debate on the question of who should foot the bill for the present crisis.
- To adopt the "Scandinavian model," under which labor unions are active in recession periods to raise real wages and thus increase local buying power.
- To institute public financing of the press in order to limit the influence of economic interests and assure that its first loyalty is to the public.

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Concurrent with publication, the Adva Center is organizing a series of public lectures and discussions, "How the Financial Crisis Affects You and Me" (in Hebrew). The schedule is on the Adva Center website.

For The full publication (in Hebrew) : press [here](#).