

## The Democratic Socialism Concept

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**Received** October 3, 2023; **Revised** December 13, 2023; **Accepted** December 13, 2023



### ABSTRACT

The discussion within the paper delves into the intricate concept of democratic socialism, elucidating its overarching objectives in establishing a socio-economic framework that is characterized by equity and justice. Democratic socialism, as expounded upon, endeavors to foster a more egalitarian distribution of the benefits derived from production among individuals actively involved in the production process, thereby mitigating disparities in income and wealth prevalent within the societal fabric. Moreover, it advocates for the extension of democratic principles beyond their conventional political spheres, encompassing domains such as the workplace and the broader economic landscape. Within this paradigm, proponents of democratic socialism endorse a diverse array of methodologies aimed at attaining social ownership, ranging from governmental control of industries and resources to the promotion of worker cooperatives. The fundamental aspiration underpinning democratic socialism is the diminution of economic disparities, the guarantee of universal access to fundamental services, and the establishment of a more participatory and equitable economic structure.

**Keywords:** Concept: Democracy; Democratic Socialism.

## Introduction

Democracy is important for many reasons. It has been argued that there is a need for the development of LGBTQ human rights because it is a necessary, although not essential, factor in the process of advancing LGBTQ rights. In addition, democracy has a positive effect on environmental quality. This is because doubling the level of democracy in Latin America would reduce per capita carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 6%. Democracy is also linked to the fundamental values of the United Nations and the institutional goals of promoting peace, human rights, and human rights. ethnicity and development in terms of governance Democracy allows for the expression of political preferences. Guarantee the rule of law and guarantee civil liberties and human rights. Finally, democracy is recognized as the form of government that best facilitates decision-making. Resolve conflicts peacefully and provide conditions for social and economic development. poverty reduction and awareness of the human rights of citizens. (Álvarez, J.F. 2019; Callejas, D.G. 2015; Volpe, V. 2020; Kharel, A.B. 2019; Van Beuningen, C. 2007)

The evolution of democracy is influenced by various social, cultural, and political factors. Throughout history (Zhang Zh., Bykov A.Yu. 2023). The concept of democracy has its origins in ancient times and has gone through various stages. includes ancient China, feudal China, and the development of the Chinese political system under the People's Republic of China. (Nikitenko, L. 2023) Participatory democracy has its roots in ancient Greece and gained momentum after World War II (Rozhkova, Z.I. 2016). The term "democracy" has been used of late in political terminology. And the analysis reveals problems in modern democracies (Lindenfors et al., 2011). Most democratic transitions occur through rapid leaps and bounds rather than slow, gradual steps. (Carayannis et al., 2021) The Quadruple and Quintuple Helix innovation systems are based on Democracy and ecology with the understanding that democracy and knowledge democracy are important to the development of knowledge and innovation. The next step in the evolution of the innovation system may require "Climate Democracy" that promotes social, cultural, economic, and political "Climate for Democracy"

**1. Direct democracy** was practiced in ancient Greece. Especially in Athens, in this system all civic organizations formed a legislature and there was no representative system. The size of the ancient state was generally limited to cities and rural environments. This allows direct democracy to function effectively. (Adagbabiri & Chuks, 2015) The practice of direct

democracy in Athens was based on rational choice based on economic considerations. and it can be considered the implementation of a social contract. (Kyriazis, et al., 2012) Athens' direct democracy was founded on two pillars: public discourse and public ideology. Public discourse allows communication between citizens. Integrate diverse knowledge and coordinate joint operations public ideology provides a set of social values that reduce the diversity of thought and behavior. This allowed communities to solve problems through joint action. (Arvanitidis & Kyriazis, 2015) The absence of political parties in ancient Athens is directly linked to democracy. This is because deciding policy issues directly under majority rule reduces the intermediary function of political parties. Office holders are appointed by lottery. This ensures that individual preferences and rent distributions are accurately represented regardless of wealth (Tridimas, G. 2011; Tridimas, G. 2017)

**2. Representative democracy** is a political system in which citizens elect representatives to make decisions for themselves. It combines Greek concepts of direct rule by the people with Latin concepts of delegation and representation. In a representative democracy People express their sovereignty through the appointment of elected representatives who have a free agency relationship to act on behalf of citizens The electoral mechanism ensures a certain level of responsiveness to the people. and a universal franchise guarantees political equality. Electoral districts are defined according to territory. It emphasizes formal equality in the distribution of voting power among adult citizens. This system allows for the interaction between the will of the people expressed through rules and formal procedures. and the influence of public opinion through informal and indirect means. Representative democracy is seen as a legitimate form of democratic decision-making. It is based on the continuing influence and power that arises from political decisions. and the connection between society and representative institutions (Landa & Pevnick, 2020; Urbinati, 2011) Accetti, et al., 2016) Thus, representative democracy is a form of government in which citizens elect representatives to make decisions and make laws on their behalf. In this system, ordinary citizens do not directly decide on every issue or policy. Instead, they delegate this power to officials who were elected instead These representatives are selected through periodic elections. where eligible citizens vote for the candidate, they believe will best represent their interests and values. A central principle of representative democracy is that elected officials are accountable to the people who elected them. They are expected to act in the best interests of their stakeholders and make decisions consistent with the preferences

and needs of the majority. This system is often contrasted with direct democracy, where citizens are directly involved in the decision-making process, such as through referendums or town hall meetings. Representative democracy is a common practice in many countries around the world, and is designed to strike a balance between effective governance and the protection of individual rights and freedoms. This ensures that the voice of the people is heard through their elected representatives.

**3. Participatory democracy** refers to a form of decentralized decision-making. There is no hierarchy, and focus on consensus. This is in contrast to bureaucratic decision-making, which is centralized, hierarchical, and based on a formal division of labor. Participatory democratic organizations are prominent in various progressive movements. It includes radical pacifism, civil rights, feminism, and environmentalism. (Lupien, P. 2022) Participatory democracy is seen as a way to restore democracy and address democratic deficits in many parts of the world. It involves the institutional mechanisms that allow citizens to seek justification for the laws to which they are subject. It aims to instill a sense of greater political efficacy. (Elszasz, 2023) Participatory democracy also has an educational function. Because people develop their skills. Get better information and question traditional gender roles through their participation. (Polletta, F. 2013) Combining participatory and deliberative approaches known as participatory deliberative democracy can lead to meaningful decisions through citizen participation and deliberation. (Singh, 2015) Thus, Participatory democracy is a political system in which citizens are directly and actively involved in the decision-making process of their government. In this model, the emphasis is on the active participation of citizens in policy-making, law, and governance. This often involves mechanisms such as town hall meetings, public consultation, Civic initiatives and referendums in which people have the opportunity to express their opinions, propose ideas, and influence the direction of government action. Participatory democracy aims to empower citizens. Promote transparency and ensure that government decisions are more reflective of the diverse needs and wishes of the population. Promote a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for state operations.

**4. Democratic Socialism** Democratic socialism refers to a political ideology that seeks to combine democratic principles with socialist economic policies. It has evolved, with its meaning changing about social democracy and communism. In the early 20th century, social democracy was seen as less radical than democratic socialism. However, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the decline of post-World War II social democracy created space for a more

radical form of democratic socialism to emerge (McIntyre, 2022). Bernie Sanders, a prominent advocate of democratic socialism, aims to repair democracy through policy measures that address neoliberal violations of human rights. His platform includes policies such as Medicare for all, free post-secondary education, and progressive taxation, which aim to meet the democratically determined needs of the people (Gachon, 2021). Sanders clarifies that democratic socialism does not involve the government owning the means of production, but rather advocates for proactive state action to address economic inequality and social issues (Sanders, 2019). Thus, democratic socialism is a political philosophy that advocates for political democracy within a socially owned economy, with a particular emphasis on economic democracy, workplace democracy, and workers' self-management within a market socialist economy or an alternative form of a decentralized planned socialist economy. Democratic socialists reject most self-described socialist states and Marxism–Leninism.

The concept of democratic socialism emerged in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as a response to the perceived problems of capitalism, such as inequality, exploitation, and environmental destruction. Democratic socialists argue that capitalism is inherently incompatible with the values of freedom, equality, and solidarity and that these ideals can only be achieved through the realization of a socialist society. However, democratic socialists also reject the authoritarian methods of traditional socialist states, such as the Soviet Union. Instead, they advocate for a gradual and peaceful transition to socialism through democratic means. This includes building a strong labor movement, electing socialist candidates to office, and campaigning for socialist policies.

Democratic socialism has a long and distinguished history, with prominent figures such as Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Rosa Luxemburg, and Eugene V. Debs all identifying as democratic socialists. In recent years, democratic socialism has experienced a resurgence in popularity, particularly among young people. This is due in part to the growing awareness of the problems of capitalism, as well as the success of democratic socialist parties in countries such as Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

### **Core Principles of Democratic Socialism**

The core principles of democratic socialism encompass a political and economic ideology that attempts to combine the principles of democracy with the ideals of socialism. In essence, Democratic socialism advocates a society in which wealth and resources are

distributed equally among its citizens. At the same time, it preserves and strengthens democratic institutions and values. This approach emphasizes the importance of government intervention in the economy to provide essential services, industrial control and addressing income inequality. All of this falls within the framework of representative democracy. The voice of the people is the basis for determining policy decisions. Democratic socialism attempts to strike a balance between individual freedom and collective responsibility. We strive for a society where everyone has access to health care, education, and a good standard of living, and where economic power is shared more equally among citizens. The key principles of democratic socialism include: (Cockshott, 1997; Pateman, 1970; Roemer, 1994; Vanek, 1978)

**1. Economic democracy:** Democratic socialists believe that workers should have a democratic say in the running of their workplaces. This could be achieved through worker cooperatives, worker councils, or other forms of workplace democracy.

Economic democracy refers to the idea of giving workers and citizens control over the conditions of production in the economy as a whole. It involves controlling market mechanisms and organizational activities. Supporting social enterprises, Democratic money creation, collective recall, Distribution of income and capital assets, and the diversity of scales and modes of production. (Jonsson & Lounsbury, 2016) The term "economic democracy" has gained attention as an alternative economic and social model to deal with the undemocratic nature of capitalism and the failure of Previous models such as the Soviet Union (Johanisová & Wolf, 2012) The concept of economic democracy is closely related to workplace democracy, which advocated for workers' right to control production conditions in their workplaces. (Rousselière, 2009) The principles and practices of economic democracy have been explored in contexts such as post-war Sweden, French cooperative and discussions about a deteriorating future (Panayotakis, 2014; Vrousalis, 2019).

“Economic democracy” is a core tenet of democratic socialism that focuses on ensuring that workers play a central role in the decision-making processes within their workplaces. The idea is to extend the principles of democracy from the political sphere to the economic sphere. Democratic socialists believe that in addition to participation in the political system through elections and representative democracy, Individuals should also be involved in the management and supervision of the facilities in which they work.

One way to achieve economic democracy is to form labor cooperatives. In worker cooperatives, employees will own and operate the business together. They decide on important aspects of the company, including policies, and production processes, and profit distribution. Worker cooperatives operate democratically. Each worker will have equal votes in making decisions, regardless of position within the organization.

Another approach to economic democracy is to establish works councils or similar structures within large corporations. These councils allow employees to participate in discussions and decisions about workplace policies, working conditions, wages, and other matters that directly affect them. These mechanisms give employees a voice in shaping the direction of their workplace and the broader economy.

The goal of economic democracy in democratic socialism is to create a more equitable and just economic system, whereby the benefits of production are shared more equally among those engaged in production; and where workers play a meaningful role in determining the terms of their employment. This principle is consistent with the broader goal of reducing income and wealth inequality within society.

**2. Social ownership of the means of production:** Democratic socialists believe that the major industries and resources of society should be owned and controlled by the people, either directly or through the state. This could be achieved through nationalization, expropriation, or other means.

The concept of "social ownership of the means of production" is a basic principle of democratic socialism. It refers to the idea that industries, businesses, and important resources within society should not be controlled by private individuals or corporations for profit. Rather, it should be collectively owned by the wider community.

Democratic socialists support different approaches. To achieve this social ownership, one common route is through the government, where these industries and resources are owned and managed by the state on behalf of the people. This can be achieved through nationalization. Where the government takes control of private enterprises in strategic sectors such as healthcare, energy, or transportation, it is a public entity that is accountable to citizens.

Alternatively, social ownership may involve worker cooperatives. Where employees collectively own and manage their workplaces, this ensures that the benefits of production

are shared more equitably among those participating. The ultimate goal of social ownership in democratic socialism is to reduce economic inequality. Guaranteed access to essential services and create a more democratic and fair economic system. where decision-making power is distributed more equally among the population.

**3. Political democracy:** Democratic socialists believe in the importance of political democracy, including free and fair elections, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly. They also believe that democratic socialists should work within the existing political system to achieve their goals.

“Political democracy” is a basic principle for democratic socialists. It emphasizes the importance of democratic values and institutions in social governance. This principle reinforces the belief that people should have the right to participate in the political process through free and fair elections. They can choose their representatives and leaders. It also includes protecting civil liberties such as freedom of speech. Allowing people to express their opinions criticize the government and advocate for change without fear of persecution. Freedom of assembly also allows people to unite, organize, and peacefully mobilize for political and social purposes. Promote a pluralistic and open society.

Importantly, democratic socialists advocate working within the existing political system to achieve their goals. which means Instead of supporting a revolution that overthrows the existing government. They attempt to implement their policies and reforms through democratic means, such as running for elected office. Participation in political parties and participation in the legislative process This aims to align policy decisions and legislation with principles of social and economic justice. This approach reflects a commitment to democratic norms and a belief that change can be achieved through peaceful and democratic channels. while still addressing issues such as income inequality. access to health care and social welfare.

**4. Democracy:** Democratic socialists believe that democracy should be extended to all aspects of society, including the economy. This means that workers should have a say in the decisions that affect their workplaces and that the public should have a say in the decisions that affect their economy.

Democratic socialists support the expansion of democracy beyond traditional political and administrative boundaries. and enter the economic realm They believe that

democracy should not be limited to the voting booth. But it should also cover the workplace and the wider economy. This principle reflects their commitment to creating a more equal and just society. Where power and decision-making are distributed more equally.

In the workplace, democratic socialists argue that workers should have a say in decisions that affect their daily lives and livelihoods. This can be achieved by organizing worker cooperatives, where employees own and manage their businesses together or through worker councils and similar mechanisms that give workers a voice on matters such as wages, working conditions, and company policies. Democratic socialists aim to create a more democratic and just working environment. By involving workers in the decision-making process, whereby the benefits of labor are shared more equitably.

Moreover, in the wider economy, Democratic socialists encourage citizens to participate in decisions that affect policy and economic priorities. This may include setting fiscal policy, business regulations and determining how to allocate resources in society. Democratic socialists seek to reduce income inequality, provide essential services and promote a more inclusive and responsive economic system, which benefits the entire population. It ensures that economic decisions are made with public input and are consistent with the public welfare. Extending democracy into the economic sphere is a central tenet of the vision for a more democratic and socially just society.

**5. Socialism:** Democratic socialists believe that the means of production should be owned and controlled by the working class, not by a small elite of capitalists. This can be achieved through a variety of means, such as worker cooperatives, public ownership, and social wealth funds.

Democratic socialists argue for a fundamental change in the ownership and control of the means of production within society. They argued that it would instead be concentrated in the hands of a small group of capitalists or private owners. These means should be collectively owned and managed by the working class or the wider public. This view stems from the belief that economic power and wealth should be distributed more equitably. It is necessary to reduce income inequality, and ensuring that the benefits of production are shared more fairly.

To achieve this goal Democratic socialists, propose various methods. Including the establishment of worker cooperatives in worker cooperatives Employees will own and operate

the coworking space. This gives them a direct say in the decision-making process, and a share in the profits generated by their labor. Public ownership also involves government control of major industries and resources. To ensure that it is carried out in the best interests of society rather than for personal profit. A social wealth fund is another mechanism by which a portion of a country's wealth or resources are collectively owned and managed for the benefit of all citizens. It generates income for public services and social projects. These approaches aim to democratize the ownership and control of productive assets. This will reduce economic differences, and promote a more equitable and fair economic system, which is consistent with the principles of democratic socialism.

**6. Equality:** Democratic socialists believe in a more egalitarian society, where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. This means working to eliminate poverty, discrimination, and other forms of inequality.

Democratic socialists are deeply committed to the principles of creating a more equal society. Where everyone is given equal opportunities to succeed and live with dignity. This means organizing and actively working to eliminate various forms of inequality. That can hinder people's ability to thrive. One key point of their agenda is the eradication of poverty. They view it as a systemic problem that can be addressed through policies such as progressive taxation. Strong social safety net and equal access to education and health care, by reducing poverty Democratic socialists aim to ensure that everyone has the basic means to meet their essential needs and pursue their aspirations.

In addition, democratic socialists are strong advocates of the fight against all forms of discrimination. This includes racial, gender, and economic discrimination. They believe that systematic discrimination and structural inequality should be dismantled to create a more just and inclusive society. This involves supporting policies and practices that promote equal rights. Equal compensation and equal treatment for all persons regardless of their background or identity. With a commitment to eradicate poverty discrimination and other forms of inequality, Democratic socialists envision a society in which each person can reach his or her full potential, and where collective well-being takes precedence over the concentration of wealth and privilege.

**7. Justice:** Democratic socialists believe in a just society, where everyone is treated fairly and with respect. This means working to uphold human rights and civil liberties, and to ensure that everyone has access to essential goods and services.

Democratic socialists are strong proponents of a just society. It is characterized by fairness, respect, and protection of human rights and civil liberties. They emphasize the importance of upholding the basic rights and dignity of all people. This includes advocating for strong legal protections to protect freedoms of speech, assembly, and association and providing for equal treatment under the law, regardless of a person's background or identity. By supporting these principles Democratic socialists strive to create an environment where people can express themselves freely. Participate in the democratic process and live without fear of discrimination or persecution.

In pursuit of a just society Democratic socialists also support universal access to essential goods and services. This means working to create an equitable system that provides health care, education, housing, and other necessities, to all members of society regardless of their economic status. They argue that access to these vital resources should not be determined by wealth or privilege. But it should be guaranteed as a basic right. With a commitment to ensure that everyone has access to essential goods and services. Democratic socialists aim to create a more equal and compassionate society. Where the well-being of every citizen is of utmost importance.

### **Different Strands of Democratic Socialism**

There are a variety of different strands of democratic socialism, each with its emphasis and priorities. Some of the most common strands include: (Cockshott, 1997; Pateman, 1970; Roemer, 1994; Vanek, 1978)

**1. Market socialism:** Market socialists advocate for a socialist economy in which the means of production are socially and collectively owned or controlled, but where markets are still used to allocate goods and services.

Market socialism is an economic and political ideology that attempts to combine elements of both socialism and market-based mechanisms for allocating goods and services. At its core, market socialists share the belief with traditional socialists that the means of production, such as factories and businesses, should be owned or controlled by the community or society as a whole, rather than by private individuals or organizations. However,

what makes market socialism different is that it recognizes the role of markets in the distribution of these goods and services.

In a market socialist system Governments or communities may own major industries or enterprises. This ensures that they operate in the best interests of society rather than solely for personal profit. Meanwhile, the market is used to set prices. Allocate resources and facilitate exchange Market socialists argue that this combination creates economic efficiency and innovation. At the same time, it addresses the problems of income inequality and wealth concentration that may be associated with pure capitalism. The ultimate goal of market socialism is to create an economic system that preserves the interests of market competition. At the same time, it alleviates the negative social and economic consequences often associated with capitalism, such as severe wealth inequality and labor exploitation.

**2. Participatory socialism:** Participatory socialists emphasize the importance of worker participation in the running of workplaces and the economy as a whole.

Participatory socialism is an ideology that emphasizes the active participation of workers in management and decision-making processes within the workplace and the wider economy. In essence, Participatory socialists believe that economic power and decision-making should be distributed equally among the working class. Instead of being concentrated in the hands of a small elite group or a hierarchical organizational structure.

In the context of participatory socialism, the concept of worker participation often takes the form of worker cooperatives. where employees own and operate a business together and have a direct say in decisions that affect their working lives. This approach gives employees a voice on issues such as company policy. Production process and profit-sharing. Participatory socialists also advocate democratic planning mechanisms in the economy, where workers, consumers, and other stakeholders Participate in economic decision-making at both the micro and macro levels. The goal is to create a more democratic and equitable economic system that is consistent with the principles and values of socialism at the same time, it actively engages with those involved in shaping economic outcomes.

**3. Libertarian socialism:** Libertarian socialists emphasize the importance of individual liberty and autonomy within a socialist society.

liberal socialism or as it is often called "Anarchism" in some contexts is a political and economic philosophy that combines socialist ideology with an emphasis on individual freedom and independence. There is a common socialist belief in ownership or collective control of the means of production. It aims to eliminate class differences and promote economic equality. However, what sets liberal socialism apart is its commitment to achieving these socialist goals without the need for a unitary state apparatus. Center high Instead, it supports a decentralized and grassroots governance model. where communities and employees have significant control over their affairs.

In a liberal socialist society, Personal freedom and personal autonomy are paramount. This means that even if the means of production are collectively owned or controlled, but individuals have a high degree of freedom to make work-related choices. living arrangement and their lifestyle by trying to eliminate hierarchy. Not only in the economic realm but also, in political and social relations. To create a society where power is decentralized horizontally rather than vertically. with emphasis on direct democracy voluntary cooperation and the principle that individuals should have ultimate say in decisions that affect their lives. In the end, Liberal socialism aims to reconcile socialist principles with a deep commitment to individual freedom and self-determination. This creates a society where both economic equality and personal freedom can coexist.

**4. Ecosocialism:** Ecosocialists combine democratic socialist principles with environmentalism.

Ecosocialism is a political and economic philosophy that attempts to combine the principles of democratic socialism with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and ecological well-being. In essence, Ecosocialism recognizes the connection between social and environmental issues. and aims to address both problems simultaneously, emphasizing the need for a more equitable and just society. At the same time, we attach importance to responsible stewardship of the world's natural resources.

Ecosocialists argue that the pursuit of profit under capitalism often leads to environmental degradation. exhausted resources and social inequality They support the transformation of the economic system. Where the factors of production are shared or controlled to ensure that they are used sustainably and in a manner that benefits all members of society. This includes policies that promote renewable energy, reduce pollution, and

prioritize ecosystem protection. Social workers also advocate for a just transition for workers in environmentally harmful industries. This will ensure that they are not left behind in the transition to a more sustainable and green economy. Ecosocialism represents a combination of socialist values and environmental consciousness. By trying to create a society where both people and the world can thrive together.

### **Democratic socialist policies**

Democratic socialists believe that these principles can be achieved through a gradual process of reform, rather than through revolution. They advocate for a variety of policies to achieve these goals, such as universal healthcare, free education, affordable housing, and a living wage. Here are some examples of democratic socialist policies: (Cockshott, 1997; Pateman, 1970; Roemer, 1994; Vanek, 1978)

**1. Universal healthcare:** Democratic socialists believe that everyone should have access to quality healthcare, regardless of their income or employment status. They support policies such as single-payer healthcare and Medicare for All.

Democratic socialists support universal health care. It is a system where every member of society has the right to access high-quality health care services, regardless of their income or job situation. They argue that health care is a basic human right. Nor should it depend on your ability to pay for medical care. To achieve this goal Democratic socialists often support policies such as single-payer health care or Medicare for All, which involve a government-funded and publicly managed health care system. These guidelines aim to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage to all citizens. Reduce the financial burden of medical expenses and ensure that healthcare decisions are based on medical needs rather than profit. Universal health care is a key component of a more equitable and compassionate society, where health outcomes are not determined by wealth or privilege.

**2. Free education:** Democratic socialists believe that everyone should have access to quality education, from kindergarten through college. They support policies such as free tuition at public colleges and universities.

Democratic socialists support free education as a basic right for all members of society. From early childhood education to higher education. They argue that education is the cornerstone of social mobility. And access to quality educational opportunities should not be limited by financial means. To achieve this goal Democratic socialists often support policies

such as free tuition at public colleges and universities. This will help reduce student debt, and ensuring that everyone has access to higher education, regardless of their socio-economic background. This approach aims to create a more equal and inclusive society by leveling the playing field and enabling individuals to pursue educational and career opportunities based on their abilities and aspirations, instead of financial constraints.

**3. Affordable housing:** Democratic socialists believe that everyone should have access to safe and affordable housing. They support policies such as rent control, public housing, and housing subsidies.

Democratic socialists support affordable housing as a basic human right. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that everyone has access to safe and affordable housing. They argue that housing should not be treated merely as a commodity subject to market demand. But it is a basic necessity for all individuals and families. To achieve this goal, Democratic socialists often support policies such as rent controls to prevent excessive rent increases. Expanding public housing initiatives to provide affordable options for low-income individuals and families, and housing subsidies to keep housing costs manageable for those who need them. These policies aim to address housing affordability, fight homelessness, and create a stable and inclusive community, where people can live their lives with dignity and safety, regardless of their financial situation.

**4. Living wage:** Democratic socialists believe that everyone should earn a living wage, which is enough to meet their basic needs. They support policies such as raising the minimum wage and expanding access to unions.

Democratic Socialism supports the establishment of a living wage. This means that all workers should be paid a wage that allows them to meet their essential needs, including food, housing, health care, and education, without having to struggle to make ends meet. They argued that work should provide individuals with a reasonable standard of living and financial security. No one should be forced to live in poverty or rely on public assistance even if they are employed. To achieve this goal, Democratic socialists often support policies such as raising the minimum wage to a level that meets these basic standards, and expanding access to trade unions. This can help workers collectively negotiate for better wages and working conditions. These policies aim to reduce income inequality, create economic security,

for workers and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a life of dignity through gainful employment.

Democratic socialism is a growing movement in the United States and around the world. It is a vision for a more just and equitable society, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

However, several countries around the world have implemented some form of democratic socialism. Some of the most notable examples include Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, New Zealand, Uruguay, Portugal, Spain, Greece, and Chile. In these countries, democratic socialists have been successful in implementing a range of policies that have improved the lives of their citizens, such as universal healthcare, affordable housing, and strong worker protections.

### **Conclusion**

Democratic socialism is a vibrant and diverse political philosophy that offers a way to achieve a more just and equitable society. It is a philosophy that is based on the principles of democracy, solidarity, and equality. Democratic socialists believe that we can create a better world, and they are working to make that happen. However, the concept of democratic socialism is a political and economic ideology that combines the principles of democracy, socialism, and social justice. It aims to create a more equitable and compassionate society, where everyone has access to essential goods and services. This includes health care, education, housing, and living expenses, regardless of income or social status. Democratic socialists support the transformation of the economic system. It emphasizes social ownership in key industries, and production methods at the same time, it promotes individual freedom and participation through workplace democracy and political participation. In essence, Democratic socialism aims to strike a balance between economic equality and individual freedom. By striving for a society in which the well-being and dignity of every citizen is paramount.

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