

## "Sacrificed Generation": Let's give hope to the youth

*Contribution of the Young Socialists of Haute-Garonne*

*"If the youth is not always right, the society that ignores it and hits it is always wrong."*

*François Mitterrand*

"It's not easy to be 20 in 2020". These words, from the President of the Republic, reflect a sad reality experienced by our youth. Shortly after his election, Emmanuel Macron quickly demonstrated, by his actions, that he would not be the president of the youth. Quite the contrary. **A president against the youth!**

After budget cuts voted by the political group LREM directly impacting young people (decrease of the A.P.L...), the presidential majority has introduced a selection to training and university as well as a change in the choice of higher education (Parcoursup).

Subsequently, President Macron decided to drastically reduce the number of subsidized contracts, which in particular allowed young people to begin to integrate into the job market. While young people are finding it increasingly difficult to find a job, the government leaves little hope for their future and their retirement, especially in view of the proposed pension reform: "you will not have a pension" or "you will die at work ...".

This policy was accentuated with the Covid-19 health crisis and its economic consequences. Youth was the first to be impacted. The number of young people looking for work is constantly rising.

In September, already one in six young working people were unemployed. The Castex plan will not change this and provides few solutions and no lasting solutions. Poverty continues to grow because of the pandemic. The health crisis is concomitant with a social crisis.

Every day, French people fall into poverty. An additional 1.2 million people were helped by Secours Populaire from mid-March to the end of August, a 50% increase over previous years.

Among these precarious new French people, the young working population and students are over-represented.

This youth seems to be the "Sacrificed Generation" by E. Macron's quinquennium. It is suffering. The inaudibility of this youth echoes the tragic event of Anas K. A student who set himself on fire last November in Lyon to denounce the precarious situation of students.

However, this generation is ready to invest itself and be an actor in our society. The youth is full of potential future doctors, nurses, teachers, farmers, researchers, postal workers, police officers... But to do so, they must be given the means to act and build their futures without the sword of Damocles.

### FOR A YOUNG BASIC INCOME 18-30 years old:

As the global crisis of COVID-19 evolves every day, impacting our economy, many citizens, especially young people, inevitably fall into precariousness. In order to avoid a social and societal shock and to fight against growing precariousness, it is essential for the Enlightenment country to set up a sustainable solidarity system. It is time to accompany young people. The Basic Youth Income should be extended to the entire population, after experimentation with young people.

**This basic income, without any counterpart and automatic, will have to be degressive according to income. It must also be at least equal to the poverty line ( 1063 euros in 2020).** This allowance will also be an opportunity to develop a real plan to support the integration of young people into the workforce.

### FOR A YOUTH ACTIVITY BONUS:

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG WORKING PEOPLE AND STUDENT EMPLOYEES.

Being young and active is generally more difficult financially: tuition fees (for students who are employed or on work-study programs, housing costs, etc.). This youth activity bonus, this boost, would come in addition to or, failing that, in replacement of the activity bonus. This premium would be a monthly benefit to support the purchasing power of young people and encourage them to enter the job market. It would apply to **students, employees, self-employed workers and civil servants** aged 16 to 26. This would enable them to enter the workforce or school with peace of mind.

### FOR A SCHOOLING ACCESSIBLE TO ALL:

Tuition fees should not be a hindrance to the development and future of youth.

Too many young people do not realize their professional projects due to lack of financial means. This is why some left-wing communities are implementing measures to promote schooling that is accessible to all. For example, in Occitania, the actions of Carole Delga during her term of office led to the cheapest school year in France: loan of textbooks, first professional equipment, help/ free of charge to acquire a laptop, help in reading for leisure activities, help in acquiring a sports license, good cultural, sports and tourism plans... **Occitania is showing the way, these measures must be extended to all young people throughout France.** In parallel to

It is essential, especially in this period, to ensure equal access to healthcare for all young people.

### **FOR A REAL YOUTH HEALTH CARD FOR 12/26 YEAR OLDS:**

Currently for many young people, it is the dilemma: to take care of themselves or to finish at the end of the month. Unfortunately, too many young people postpone their consultations or do not treat themselves for lack of money. However, a youth health card exists. It lists all the places that provide a generalist reception on all issues related to adolescence; listening and consultations allow us to better understand and respond to the questions and suffering of young people.

However, this card does not ensure real access to care for all young people. It is therefore essential to complete this youth card.

Yes, **contraception must be free.**

Yes, the **hygienic protections must be free of charge.**

Yes, **each youth must be able to consult a doctor and a dentist every trimester**, without advancing money.

These measures, which may seem minimal, are essential and vital. They can allow young people to finish their end of the month serenely by ensuring their health security. It is intolerable that in a developed country this insecurity is a topical issue.

It is also necessary to accompany young people in precarious situations in the purchase of basic necessities (food...) thanks to an aid for young people in precarious situations. The associations no longer have the means to forever replace the State. Our socialist and humanist values must go in this direction.

### **FOR MONTHLY YOUTH SOLIDARITY CHEQUES:**

The precariousness of youth is growing consequently on two levels.

One of the most neglected sectors in order to save money: it's food, hydration... We must help young people to live with dignity and health. Too many young people suffer from malnutrition.

In Haute-Garonne, the Departmental Council headed by the Socialist President Georges Méric has, since the health crisis, set up "solidarity vouchers" for the most fragile families to help them with their everyday purchases.

This solidarity and humanist initiative allows for real social justice and must therefore be widespread.

Thus, it would be relevant to introduce it among young people, a very precarious population. These youth solidarity cheques would be given out according to income.

It also appears necessary to universalize culture vouchers to help make youth culture more accessible. Indeed, culture is one of the predominant vectors of emancipation and a catalyst for social cohesion. In a society where individualism is increased, it is essential to maintain social links between everyone. This would help to avoid a youth that has to choose between openness and rent.

Finally, it is important to help young people to live in dignity, in dignified housing.

### **FOR AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND HEALTHY HOUSING:**

Due to a lack of means and choices, many young people live in substandard housing or even squats. This discrimination reduces young people's chances of success in the future.

It is our duty to accompany our youth to have access to healthy and affordable housing. We must increase the number of university rooms, while improving the quality of life in the university and capping rents. Indeed, the ÉLAN law, on rent control, will have to be perpetuated and applied to all communities. It allows local authorities to do so. Thus, following our positive municipal scores, it is clear that all socialist local authorities must be the driving force behind and demand this cap.

Our company is at a turning point in its history. We are facing a global pandemic that will generate an economic crisis.

Poverty among young people, already high, will worsen. And yet, as Victor Hugo reminded us, "Youth is the smile of the future in front of a stranger who is himself". As Socialists, Humanists, we must be pioneers, bearers of hope and solutions. We cannot let this "Generation be sacrificed", we will do everything to make it the "Generation of Hope".

For a humanist, inclusive and supportive France!



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