

THE BUSINESS LEADERS FOR JUSTICE COALITION

The Justice Imperative Principles



COVID-19. ECONOMIC CRISIS. SOCIAL UNREST. BREONNA TAYLOR. GEORGE FLOYD. BLACK LIVES MATTER. #METOO.

5.1 BILLION PEOPLE LACK MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

1.2 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE DIED FROM COVID-19 WORLDWIDE.

We are in the midst of a once-in-a-generation global humanitarian challenge. The pandemic has uncovered a myriad of injustices that threaten people's well-being, safety, and lives. Women and children face a heightened risk of violence at home, workers are losing their jobs, health care systems are stressed, local businesses are at risk of closing permanently, and the world is bracing for a global recession. A social crisis has now joined this health crisis—one brought into sharp focus on systemic racism worldwide that has, for generations, held people of color from rising. It has laid bare the reality that justice systems do not work for all people

Bridging the justice gap is not only a moral imperative; it is a public and business mandate. And in response, leaders across all sectors – government, civil society, and business – are taking urgent action and showing greater consideration for how frontline workers, vulnerable communities including our children, and the workforce are protected and supported.

Consumers, employees, shareholders and board members are increasingly calling on the business community to join efforts to advance justice and equity as leaders in society - During this difficult time, we recognize the need to step up and step out to leverage our influence to help build a more just and fairer world for all.

We, the Business Leaders For Justice, are a growing movement of CEOs, senior executives, founders, board members, and justice experts committed to achieving a new norm in corporate leadership: one in which the private sector takes a greater and more forward-leaning role to help ensure justice systems prevent and solve problems that impact people most, address the immediate and long-term impacts of the pandemic, and rebuild societal trust and cohesion.

We recognize that we must be bolder and more

intentional in taking action on justice issues that matter to our communities and businesses.

We believe in leveraging our collective talent, resources, and influence to be a united voice for change by:

1. Driving ambitious action across operations and supply chains, focused on what justice means to people
2. Uniting business leaders to lead by example in delivering positive change that benefits everyone
3. Empowering our stakeholders – including our employees to give back to their communities and build just societies for all
4. Working alongside governments, businesses, and justice partners to intentionally address justice challenges
5. Leveraging influence, talent, and resources to be a voice for change and shape public policy
6. Evaluating progress regularly to achieve a vision of justice for all

We commit to undertaking this initiative by leveraging the impact of the business community's leadership; focusing on ambitious action that drives impact; and ensuring mutual accountability and support for measurable progress.

We will work to drive meaningful change in our communities. Together we recognize that the question is no longer whether business should stand up for justice, but how. Join us as we build a powerful movement to achieve justice for all.

The Business Leaders for Justice is supported by a steering committee representing a range of justice partners and experts.

The Steering Committee will:

Produce resources on evidence and best practices to guide business action and advocate for why businesses should invest in more just and fairer relationships with all of their stakeholders – including employees, consumers, and the communities in which they work.

Connect interested businesses with civil society organizations, international agencies, and governments to help shape public policy.

Develop criteria for assessing and measuring the impact of activity launched in response to the Justice Imperative Principles.

Amplify the voice of businesses committed to advancing justice for all, especially during the current public health crisis and movement to secure racial justice.

Lead discussions and peer exchanges on priorities for business to advance justice for all.

**RESPONSIBLE
BUSINESS INITIATIVE**
FOR JUSTICE

**GLOBAL
CITIZEN.**

PATHFINDERS
FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
HOSTED BY THE CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NLADA
National Legal Aid &
Defender Association



The Global Justice Gap

5.1 billion people deprived of justice

1.5 billion

have a criminal, civil, or administrative justice problem they cannot solve

Don't know where to seek justice or don't receive help

Justice too slow, expensive, or unfair

Justice problem not resolved

The Justice for All challenge.

5%

plunge of the global economy in 2020, leading to a wave of layoffs, bankruptcies, debt, evictions, land loss, and disputes between businesses and consumers.

75%

of what Canadian households spend on food goes to addressing everyday legal problems - about \$6,000 per problem and just under \$8 billion annually.

24%

of businesses worldwide addressed key justice issues before the pandemic, such as child labor, just climate transition, and gender equality.

80%

of businesses in southeast Europe, reported that the justice system does not affect their business.

Why businesses are stepping up for justice.

91%

businesses globally have focused their efforts to protect their workforce during the COVID-19 crisis.

75%

large US public companies made some effort to respond to calls for racial justice within the three weeks of George Floyd's murder.

83%

executives feel that business has the scale, speed, and insight to solve today's most pressing problems.

74%

global consumers believe CEOs should take the lead on social justice rather than waiting for government action.

The most common justice problems

The landmark Justice for All report by the Task Force on Justice identified the greatest needs for justice in six areas:

Individual

Violence and crime, in the public sphere, at work, and at home

A mother sees her son's killer on the street every day, yet he goes unpunished.

Disputes over housing or land, or conflicts with neighbors

A family is evicted from their home and has nowhere else to go.

Family disputes, for example around divorce and inheritance

A couple's divorce ends in a bitter fight with their children caught in the middle.

Problems at work, whether as an employee or business owner

A young woman is not promoted after she turns down a "romantic" proposal from her boss.

Problems with money and debt, or consumer problems

An elderly man is harassed by debt collectors for a contract that he doesn't remember signing.

Difficulties related to access and quality of public services

A family cannot get connected to the electricity grid without paying a bribe.

Structural

Violent conflict, insecurity, and organized crime

People don't dare leave their homes at night because gangs control their neighborhood.

Land grabs and disputes over the exploitation of natural resources

Children are sick due to a local factory polluting a river.

Discrimination against women or against vulnerable groups

A woman cannot register her business because the law requires her husband's permission.

Unsafe or abusive working conditions

A factory that violates building codes collapses, killing and injuring many workers.

Abuses by corporations and failures of market regulation

A company is distributing fake medicines through local clinics.

Discrimination in the provision of public services

A brother and sister are not registered for school because they belong to a minority group.

THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF THE JUSTICE IMPERATIVE

1.

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2.

Uniting business leaders to lead by example in delivering positive change that benefits everyone.

3.

Empowering our stakeholders – including our employees to give back to their communities and build just societies for all.

4.

Working alongside governments, businesses, and justice partners to intentionally address justice challenges.

5.

Leveraging influence, talent, and resources to be a voice for change and shape public policy.

6.

Evaluating progress regularly to achieve a vision of justice for all.

**[CLICK HERE TO LEARN HOW TO JOIN THE
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