

Social Welfare Action Alliance

**#RadChat – What
are Policy
Priorities for
Radical Social
Work?**

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Radical Policy Priorities: Essential Principles

- * **Non-Reformist Reforms (André Gorz)**

- * a strategy focused on making concrete gains that could serve as transitional steps toward revolution.
- * Such reforms are fundamentally anti-capitalist, in that they help undermine the capitalist system
- * challenge existing power relations and pave the way for more transformative changes in the economy and society necessary for a more socially just and equitable distribution of resources, based on a human rights framework

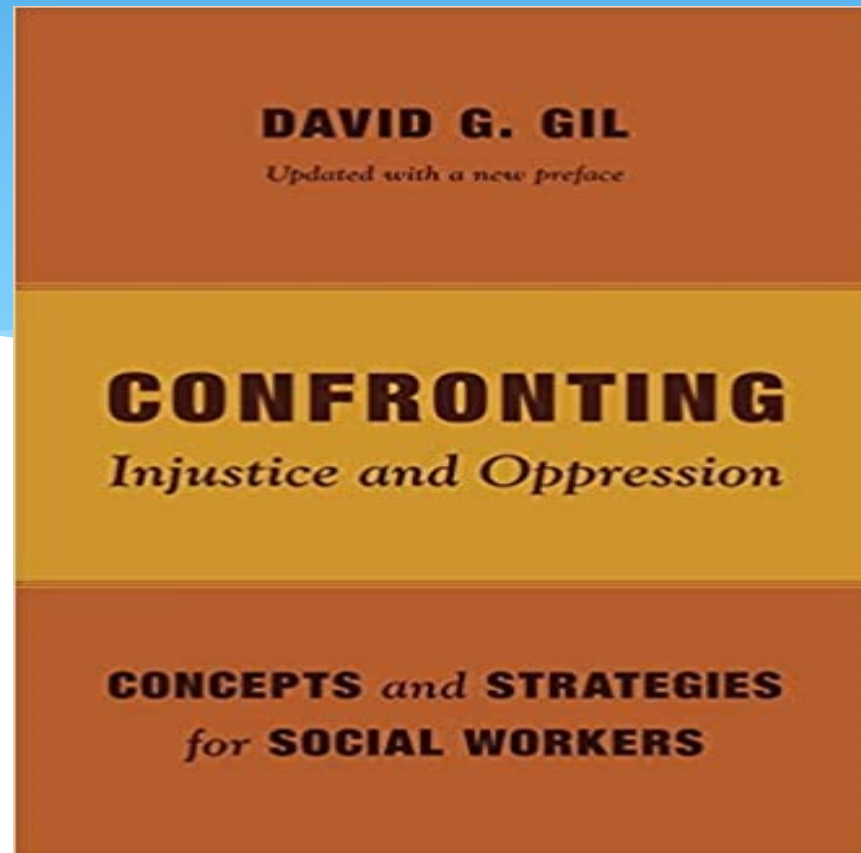
Non-Reform Reforms

- * “[A] not necessarily reformist reform is one which is conceived not in terms of what is possible within the framework of a given system and administration, but in view of what should be made possible in terms of human needs and demands.... A non-reformist reform is determined not in terms of what can be, but what should be.”

- * **Source:** Engler & Engler (2021) André Gorz’s Non-Reformist Reforms Show How We Can Transform the World Today. *Jacobin*. <https://jacobin.com/2021/07/andre-gorz-non-reformist-reforms-revolution-political-theory>

Transition Policies

(David Gil, Chapter 5)



Transition Policies

- Right to Work – true full employment
- Redefinition of Work – along more socially just lines
- Inclusion of Caregiving Work
- Exclusion of Counter-Work
- Adequate Income
- Public Child Care Services
- Allowances for Children, Students, the Unemployed, Retirees, and the Disabled
- Health Services
- Tax Reform
- Quality of Work and Choice of Work

Transition Policies

Right to Work – true full employment

- Eliminating involuntary unemployment
- Proposed Guarantees under Economic Bill of Rights
- Constitutional Basis for Full Employment Guarantees
 - Ratification of U.N. Charter
- Two Methods of Implementing Full Employment
 - Periodic Adjustments to the Work Day
 - Publically Sponsored Provision of Necessary Goods and Services

Transition Policies

Redefinition of work

- "mental, physical, and emotional processes necessary for, and conducive to, maintenance of life and enhancement of its quality."

Transition Policies

Inclusion of Caregiving Work

- Activities such as the following should be considered work:
 - Caring for children by parents
 - Caring for aging parents by adult children
 - Caring for persons with disabilities
- People undertaking such work should be paid an adequate wage out of public revenues

Transition Policies

Exclusion of Counter-Work

- Activities that are not necessary, or are destructive should be phased out
 - such as for example, the making of nuclear weapons
 - should not entitle people engaging in them to remuneration

Transition Policies

Adequate Income

- Elimination of poverty requires policies assuring adequate wages for all work
- Adequate income for students
- Adequate income for people who are unemployed
- Adequate income for people whose capacities are limited
- Income of all needs to correspond to, at least, the actual cost of a decent standard of living

Transition Policies

Public Child Care Services

- Public Provision of high-quality childcare services, as well as after school centers
- Allows all parents, not just affluent, to have a choice between caring for children and pursuing occupations

Transition Policies

Allowances For Children, Students, Unemployed, Retirees and People with Disabilities

- Universal children's allowance
- Allowances for students, retirees, disabled, and unemployed
- Allowances should correspond to actual cost of living
- Replaces social security, public assistance, food programs, student loans and social welfare programs
- Proposal essentially corresponds to what some call a “universal basic income”

Transition Policies

Health Services

- Single payer health care system should be established
- Guarantee health care to all, regardless of ability to pay

Transition Policies

Tax Reform

- Reforms to tax code needed to finance transition policies
- Everyone should be entitled to a tax-free income up to the level of actual cost of a decent standard of living
- Incomes above this, regardless of source, would be taxed at progressively increasing rates

Transition Policies

Quality of Work and Choice of Work

Work Quality

- Modes of Production involving:
 - hierarchical controls;
 - division between design, management and implementation functions and
 - Fragmentation of work into monotonous and meaningless tasks should be eliminated
- Integrated Models designed and managed by workers themselves should replace these

Transition Policies

Quality of Work and Choice of Work Choice

- Work would have to be distributed equitably
- Shifts among occupations could be facilitated through lifelong access to education
- Community Service System – for work that could not be humanized, which would be shared on a rotation basis.

Discussion

- * In this session, we will discuss the moment we are in as radical social workers and allies given the upcoming election and the moment we are in politically.
- * Do current policy proposals further economic, social, environmental, and racial justice or does it further the neoliberal agenda?
- * Do they address the root causes of oppression and suffering?