



## **Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.**

### **Goal 8 Targets:**

- 8.1) **Sustain per capita economic growth** in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least **7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum** in the **least developed countries**.
- 8.2) Achieve **higher levels of economic productivity** through **diversification, technological upgrading and innovation**, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.
- 8.3) **Promote development-oriented policies** that support **productive activities**, decent **job creation, entrepreneurship**, creativity and innovation, and **encourage the formalization and growth** of micro-, small- and medium-sized **enterprises**, including through access to financial services.
- 8.4) **Improve** progressively, through 2030, global **resource efficiency** in consumption and production and endeavour to **decouple economic growth from environmental degradation**, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.
- 8.5) By 2030, **achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all** women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
- 8.6) By 2020, substantially **reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training**.
- 8.7) Take immediate and effective measures to **eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking** and **secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour**, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.
- 8.8) **Protect labour rights** and **promote safe and secure working environments for all** workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
- 8.9) By 2030, devise and implement policies to **promote sustainable tourism** that **creates jobs** and **promotes local culture and products**.
- 8.10) Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and **expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all**.
- 8.a) **Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries**, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.
- 8.b) By 2020, develop and operationalize a **global strategy for youth employment** and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

*See pages 4-5 for further resources on SDG 8 and sustainable economic growth.*

# Take action toward achieving goal 8

## Take action locally:

- **Congregational actions:** *Engage members of your congregation in action either through volunteering, advocacy, exercises, or wider congregational changes.*
  - **Support restaurants and companies that treat their workers ethically with fair wages and benefits.**
    - See a list of fair trade clothing companies [here](#).
    - Download [ROC Diner's Guide](#) Free App for Android or iPhone to see full write ups of the wages, benefits, and promotion practices of 150 of the most popular restaurant chains in the US. Or download the guide from the UUSC online [here](#).
  - **Check out [MIT's Living Wage Calculator](#)** to see whether your county provides a living wage to workers in various fields based on family size and type. Use this as a basis for discussion in your congregation or for planning to boycott or petition companies that don't respect the right to a living wage.
  - **Support small businesses** in accordance with the Goal 8 target 8.3 by sourcing the goods for coffee hour, events, and fundraisers from small businesses in your area instead of large chain stores.
  - **Plan a worship service on the living wage**, and use some of the UUA's congregational resources related to the fight for a living wage [here](#). (Around Labor Day may be a good time to hold this service!)
    - Check out readings, sermons, and written works on wage rights [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
  - **Organize a congregational group to support restaurant workers' rights using the UUSC's [Choose Compassionate Consumption Community Coordinator guide](#).**
  - **Celebrate World Fair Trade Day** on May 14th, 2016! Check out this [10-step event planning guide](#) to help you plan a commemoration at your congregation, or this [list of sample events](#) to plan, including a fair trade market or fashion show at your congregation.
  - **Make the switch to serving only fair trade coffee and snacks** at your congregation during coffee hour and events. See a few fair trade coffee brands [here](#).
  - **Pass on [these clothing question cards](#)** to congregation members so they can defend workers' rights internationally every time they go shopping.
- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for a fair living wage for workers in the U.S. and Canada. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
  - **[Tell Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program](#)**, a coalition among farmers, farm workers, and retail food companies to ensure fair wages and working conditions for farm workers. Wendy's is the last of the [five major fast food chains](#) to join the program.
  - **[Tell McDonald's that their employees deserve a livable salary of \\$15 per hour](#)** via Fight for \$15.
    - Follow Fight for 15 on their social media to stay tuned about strikes in your area. Support local fast food workers in their protest for a living wage.
    - Join the Fight for 15 in British Columbia [here](#) (Canadian equivalent).
  - **[Show your solidarity with low wage workers](#)** serving wealthy and powerful politicians in the **U.S. Capitol** and other government buildings.
  - **[Tell Macy's to protect contracted cleaning workers from wage theft](#).**
  - **[Urge Regions Bank to leave the loan shark business](#)** by eliminating their "Ready Advance" loan program with interest rates around 300%, a predatory rate.

- [Call on U.S. Congress](#) to pass the **Paycheck Fairness Act** to ensure equal pay for women and men.
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on economic inequality in the U.S. and Canada at your congregation.*
  - [Wal-mart: The High Cost of Low Price](#)-- A documentary on the poor working conditions and low wages of Wal-mart employees in the US.
  - [Talent Untapped](#) -- A documentary on workplace discrimination against prospective employees with disabilities that takes place in Canada.
  - [The Harvest](#) -- A documentary on agricultural migrant child labour and the danger child workers are exposed to in the U.S.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on economic inequality in the U.S. and Canada.*
  - [Behind the Kitchen Door](#) -- Saru Jayaraman, on low wages and mistreatment of restaurant workers, along with the UUA's discussion guide [here](#).
  - [Worker's Rights as Human Rights](#) -- James A. Gross, on how employers, in addition to the government, can violate the human rights of workers.
  - [Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Working Americans Are Not Getting Paid—And What We Can Do About It](#)-- Kim Bobo on the stealing of wages from workers in the U.S. via low salaries and unpaid overtime work, and a call to action to address this.
  - [All Labor Has Dignity](#)—Michael K. Honey introduces readers to Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of economic equality in a collection of his speeches and lectures.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working to reduce economic inequality in the U.S. and Canada.*
  - [Interfaith Worker Justice](#): A non-profit founded by a variety of leaders from different faith groups that works to engage faith communities in the fight for good working conditions and equal pay through lobbying and other grassroots advocacy initiatives.
  - [National People's Action](#): A network of grassroots organizations lobbying for Bank Accountability, Housing Justice, and Immigrant and Worker's Rights across the US.
  - [Community Options, Inc.](#): A non-profit that works to support those with developmental disabilities and brain trauma to find housing and employment, fighting against ableism in hiring practices and in the workplace.
  - [American Association of University Women](#): A US organization that [advocates for equal pay](#) and opportunity for women in the workplace.
  - **Check out your local anti-human trafficking NGO** in the U.S. [here](#), and in Canada [here](#). Find one closest to you to put your support toward.

### Take action internationally:

- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for ethical wages for workers across the globe. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
  - [Tell Samsung to take responsibility for unfair wages](#), dangerous working conditions, and child labor in cobalt mines.
  - [Call on FIFA to end labour exploitation in Qatar](#).
  - [Tell PepsiCo to end harsh conditions for workers](#) in palm oil plantations across Indonesia.

- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on economic inequality across the world at your congregation.*
  - [\*\*Behind the Swoosh\*\*](#): A short film created by an ex-soccer coach forced to resign for refusing to wear sweatshop-produced Nike products, who documents the struggle of living on Nike sweatshop wages in Indonesia.
  - [\*\*Oblivion\*\*](#): A documentary on wealth inequality in Lima, the capital city of Peru.
  - [\*\*The True Cost\*\*](#): A documentary on the “fast fashion” industry made up of multinational corporations profiting on clothing sold at low prices and made at even lower prices, and the harm it causes to garment factory workers worldwide.
  
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on economic inequality across the world.*
  - [\*\*Confessions of an Eco-Sinner\*\*](#): Fred Pearce’s story of his journey to track down the sources of the everyday goods he consumes across the globe, and the impact that his consumerist tendencies have on workers in developing nations.
  - [\*\*Enslaved: True Stories of Modern Day Slavery\*\*](#) – Jesse Sage and Liora Kasten’s collection of firsthand accounts of modern slavery Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, as told by survivors of slavery themselves.
  - [\*\*Slaves to Fashion: Poverty and Abuse in the New Sweatshops\*\*](#) – Robert J.S. Ross’ account of the dark side of the apparel industry, detailing the decline and rebirth of sweatshops overseas in the newly globalized clothing market.
  
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working to reduce economic inequality across the world.*
  - [\*\*The Child Labor Coalition\*\*](#): An international coalition of organizations advocating against exploitative child labor.
  - [\*\*World Fair Trade Organization\*\*](#): The leading NGO to label goods as Fair Trade, which seeks to promote the ethical treatment and payment of workers across the world (especially in the Global South).
  - [\*\*Worker Rights Consortium\*\*](#): A labour rights monitoring organization that conducts investigations and issues public reports on working conditions in factories across the globe.

### **Further resources on SDG 8 and sustainable economic growth:**

- [\*\*Global Goals’ graphics on the SDGs\*\*](#).
- [\*\*Facts and figures on economic growth\*\*](#).
- [\*\*UN Development Program’s \(UNDP\) work\*\*](#) to achieve goal 8.
- [\*\*Country profiles of nations in the European Union and the size of their gender pay gap\*\*](#).
- [\*\*Human Rights Watch updates on human rights violations made against workers\*\*](#) with the Human Rights Watch. Keep in touch by [receiving their newsletter](#) or [following them on social media](#).
  - Make a donation to the Human Rights Watch [here](#).
- [\*\*Good Jobs First’s Violation Tracker\*\*](#) listing the environmental and human rights violations of major corporations across the globe.
- [\*\*List of international organizations\*\*](#) partnering for the achievement of SDG 8.
- [\*\*UN Women’s work toward SDG 8\*\*](#), including real women’s stories of their fight to achieve economic equality across the globe.