**DEEP POVERTY NETWORK’S APPEAL TO CENTRAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**REGARDING THE APRIL 29 - MAY 17 LOCKDOWN**

We have been witnessing the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of those who live in deep poverty, those with no social security, those on unpaid leave and those who have lost their jobs for the last year. Families who live in precarious conditions continue to live in social exclusion, economic insecurity and unequal conditions in the midst of deepening pandemic.

We are now entering a seventeen day full lockdown. We predict that the conditions brought forward by the lockdown will have profound consequences for those who subsist on daily wages and work in precarious conditions. Families with no savings and who subsist on daily wages to meet their basic needs will have difficulty having access to basic necessities as well as paying their bills and rent. In the three days following the announcement of the lockdown, we have witnessed families that we extend support to express concerns regarding hunger, not finding food for their children.

Since its foundation, the Deep Poverty Network has been working to make visible the experiences of those who experience deep poverty, and we try to support their struggle against poverty. As we continue to exhibit solidarity, we believe that the fight against poverty can only be won through inclusive and sustainable policy changes. We believe it is of vital importance to extend a fixed annual income to those who work on a daily basis or in precarious conditions, those who have lost their jobs and cannot find work during the pandemic.

We will continue to extend solidarity to those living in deep poverty, in a non-discriminatory manner. Throughout this process, we believe it is important that all social aid provided by the government, local authorities or NGOs be rendered in a way that respects human dignity, with the understanding that restrictions on access to basic needs are in essence human rights violations.

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Here are our recommendations as to what the central government and local authorities could do in this extraordinary period:

* Announcing an amnesty for the payment of utility bills of those with no regular income during the pandemic
* Providing the technical infrastructure in neighbourhoods where children with no access to remote education so that they can benefit from the remote learning system
* Providing educational and recreational materials to children to help them make the best of their time at home
* Providing weekly clean water to families who have no access to clean water
* Providing medical care to those who need emergency care (those who are disabled, bed-bound etc.)
* Monitoring Covid-positive families and supporting their recovery by providing the appropriate nutrition
* Deferring payment of loans extended by a certain state bank to those working in precarious conditions at the beginning of the pandemic until the crisis draws to a close, with no additional interest or penalties
* Providing sufficient amounts of basic items such as food, diapers, baby formula, sanitary towels, cleaning products and surgical masks to families with no regular income.

We believe the most vital step that needs to be taken during this process is to provide a basic income for at least one year to ensure the fulfilling of the most basic rights and needs of families in need.

As the Deep Poverty Network, we call on decision-makers and policy-makers to take immediate action in a bid to break the intergenerational spiral of poverty and we also call on everyone else to exhibit solidarity with those in need.

**DEEP POVERTY NETWORK**