

4 EVENTS

Roundtable focuses on access to food for students in tertiary institutions

The Socio-economic Rights Project hosted a roundtable on access to food for students in tertiary institutions in South Africa on the 5th of October 2017. It looked at issues to be addressed from a first-hand perspective, as well as possible solutions going forward relating to access to food for tertiary students.

The roundtable was an exploratory meeting which probed the issues as well as served as a platform for gaining buy in of proposed partners for SERP's 'Access to Food for Students' Project.'

Participants at the roundtable were in agreement that this was an area requiring urgent intervention by all stakeholders. The need for coordination at national levels to ensure proper accountability mechanisms were in place was reiterated.

Civil society participation on the right to food in South Africa remained apathetic, despite the right being constitutionally guaranteed. Participants opined that this presented an opportunity for civil society to lead the campaign on this constitutionally guaranteed right as well as an opportunity for strategic impact litigation on the right to food.

This roundtable was attended by lawyers, economists, public health practitioners, food security experts, NGOs, government department representatives, chapter nine institutions, researchers, academics and student representatives.

The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health in East and Southern Africa

Sexual and reproductive health is a fundamental human right as well as human development issue that states must strive to fulfil. It is guaranteed in various international and regional human rights instruments as well as national laws and policies. This was true at the recent Regional Colloquium on The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in East and Southern Africa Regions.

The Regional Colloquium, which took place on 19 – 20 October 2017 in Johannesburg, was organised by Dullar Omar Institute in conjunction with the Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN).

Participants acknowledged that while issues relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights remain contested in many parts of the world including Africa, however, recent developments such as: the adoption of the Maputo Protocol; resolutions, general comments and communications by the African Commission; adoption of SADC Gender Protocol; Model laws on HIV and child marriage; and the EAC HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Act, provide great opportunities to further advance the SRHR of women in EAC and SADC regions.

While there are no specific human rights instruments dedicated to the advancement of sexual and reproductive health.

of sexual and reproductive rights under international law, various human rights instruments recognise in one form or another aspects of sexual and reproductive health. In essence, sexual and reproductive health and rights are not new sets of right rather they are rights already recognised in human rights instruments (Paragraph 7.3 of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action), which states are expected to respect, protect, promote and fulfil.

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) call play an important role in advancing SRHR at the national level by exercising their promotional and protective mandate towards sexual and reproductive rights.

The colloquium consisted of 30 participants representing personnel of NHRIs from Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as well as civil society

5 CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ESR REVIEW

We welcomes contributions to be published in the ESR Review, a quarterly publication that aims to inform and educate politicians, policy-makers, NGOs, the academic community and legal practitioners about key developments relating to socio-economic rights at national and international levels.

Contributions:

- * should reflect contemporary debate or spark new debate;
- * should be opinion pieces or serve an advocacy function, rather than simply stating legal principles or being descriptive in nature; should not be on a topic already published in the ESR Review, unless they take the debate forward;
- * should not be a marketing exercise for a particular project or programme; and should be written in a simple, clear style that avoids technical language and legal jargon where possible, taking into account that the ESR Review is read by both legal practitioners and grass-roots human rights organisations.

Send contributions in electronic format (MSWord) to serp@uwc.ac.za. Provide your full name and present position. Titles and qualifications are not necessary.

If the article has already been published elsewhere, give full details, including whether it has been shortened, updated or substantially changed for the ESR Review and whether the required authorisations have been granted.

Length

Contributions should be no longer than 3 000 words, except contributions for the Events section (1 500 words) and the Publications (Book Review) section (1 000 words).

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