

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS AT 25

TWENTY FIVE YEARS FIGHTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS



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WHO WE ARE

The Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) is an international nongovernmental organization that fights poverty and inequality by advancing human rights as guiding principles of social, economic and development policy. We work for the recognition and enforcement of economic and social rights—among them the rights to education, health, food, water, housing and work—as a powerful tool for promoting social justice and human dignity. Our international and interdisciplinary staff team based in New York and Lima comes from the human rights, development and social justice movements in different parts of the world.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP



CESR is an independent nongovernmental human rights organization. Our work depends on support from people like you. Please join our mailing list and consider making a one-time or monthly donation at www.cesr.org.

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WHAT WE DO

CESR's strategy has two inter-related goals: to promote socioeconomic and development policies that reduce inequality and realize human rights; and to support efforts by civil society groups and affected communities to claim their economic and social rights. To this end, CESR is working in close collaboration with partners around the world to challenge the injustice of fiscal austerity and tax abuse. It is critically engaging with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a spur to action against inequality. And it is leading efforts to equip human rights defenders with innovative tools to monitor economic and social rights and demand accountability.

CESR is an important global anchor in the human rights movement. Its biggest contribution has been to put economic and social rights in the mainstream of human rights and development discourse. At a time when many are reluctant to confront economic inequality as a human rights concern, CESR has done pioneering research and campaigning on it, making a big difference.

-Irene Khan, Director-General, International Development Law Organization



IMPACTS

CESR has called governments to account for human rights abuses caused by unjust austerity programs in countries as diverse as Brazil, Egypt and South Africa. In Spain, sustained efforts by CESR and its partners led to the government's repeal of an austerity-related decree depriving nearly a million undocumented migrants of access to health care. CESR was also the first to use an international human rights mechanism to hold a tax haven country (Switzerland) accountable for its human rights impacts overseas.



CESR is a human rights organization that does profound and far-reaching work on the 2030 Agenda, accountability and its human rights interlinkages.

-WaterAid

HOW WE WORK

CESR exposes violations of economic and social rights—and the factors fueling them—through an interdisciplinary combination of legal and socioeconomic analysis. We work with civil society groups around the world to hold governments and other powerful actors answerable for these abuses, making strategic use of accountability mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels. And we advocate for rights-centered policy alternatives through human rights, development and economic governance forums. CESR is proud of the horizontal collaborative relationship it maintains with partners in dozens of countries throughout the world, and of its commitment to bringing cross-disciplinary perspectives and approaches to human rights advocacy.

CESR has constantly supported our agenda without imposing their own on us. They showed us how an international partner ought to be—supportive, understanding and dedicated to strengthening our local work while reinforcing our cause on an international level.

-Heba Khalil, Senior Researcher, Social Justice Platform

CESR played a leading role in securing human rights commitments on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including an unprecedented global goal to reduce inequalities within and between countries. It is now at the heart of the Spotlight on Sustainable Development initiative, one of the most comprehensive civil society-led efforts to monitor the Agenda's implementation worldwide.



CESR has developed innovative methods for monitoring and claiming economic and social rights, including its ground-breaking OPERA framework. These have been used by hundreds of human rights defenders and organizations around the world to address issues ranging from chronic malnutrition in Guatemala to desperate school conditions in South Africa. These tools have been crucial to fostering people's participation in critical socioeconomic policies and processes affecting their lives.

