

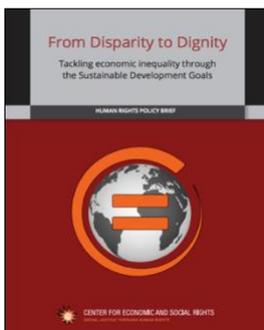


TACKLING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

AN OVERVIEW OF MATERIALS FROM THE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Extreme economic inequality is increasingly recognized as one of the most pervasive threats to human rights of our time and CESR has been actively challenging it for many years. Our research demonstrates how deliberate policy choices such as draconian austerity measures, regressive and discriminatory tax policies, unfair labor market policies, and weak social protection systems all corrode human rights. CESR counters these with various forms of advocacy. We work with partners in several countries to bring evidence of inequitable policies before human rights accountability mechanisms so they can call for redistributive alternatives. We also challenge influential economic and development governance institutions, like the IMF, on policy prescriptions that feed economic inequality and we deploy the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a spur to action toward more redistributive policies on multiple levels. We seek to generate greater human rights accountability around transnational tax abuse and we work to enable an array of partners to address economic inequality as a human rights issue, fostering skills among social movement networks and supporting treaty bodies and other intergovernmental actors in collaborative efforts.

KEY MATERIALS



From Disparity to Dignity
Goal 10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises to reduce extreme inequalities both within and between countries. *From Disparity to Dignity* examines the human rights issues at stake in SDG10 and offers a set of human rights-based policy proposals to ensure the promise of this goal is fulfilled. This briefing explores a critical set of redistributive policies

and urges coordinated global action to tackle structural factors fueling inequality within and between countries, such as cross-border tax abuse and democratic deficits in global economic governance. [Link to publication](#)



Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2019: Reshaping Governance for Sustainability
Co-published by CESR with the Arab NGO Network for Development, DAWN, Global Policy Forum, Public Services International, Social Watch, Society for International Development and Third World Network, the 2019 edition of this annual civil society assessment of SDGs

implementation presents a range of analyses of how current global and national governance arrangements are hindering implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and it puts forward recommendations for the structural reforms needed. [Link to publication](#)

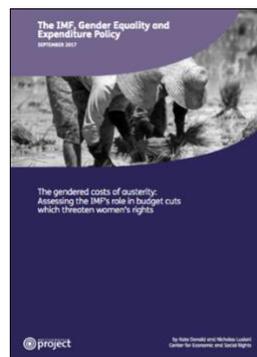


Fiscal Policy and the Rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples

This brief, informative video captures powerful insights from Indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders from Peru and Colombia discussing how unjust fiscal policies both reflect and perpetuate systemic racism and discrimination against their communities. Produced in conjunction with Colombian Indigenous rights organization

Akubadaura, the video explains how tax privileges for extractive industries deprive communities of much-needed resources, highlighting the need for closer alliances across struggles for fiscal, environmental and racial justice.

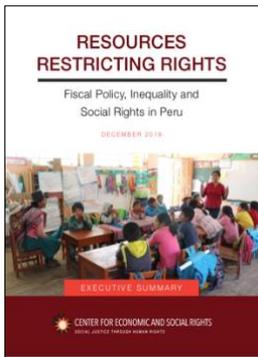
[Link to video](#)



The IMF, Gender Equality and Expenditure Policy

This briefing with the Bretton Woods Project explores the IMF's influence on public expenditure decisions and how public spending cuts impact women's human rights disproportionately, impeding progress towards gender equality. It calls on the IMF to prioritize efforts to implement robust, progressive tax and fiscal alternatives in places such as Brazil, thus preventing the painful fiscal adjustments and resulting inequalities of austerity regimes altogether.

[Link to publication](#)



Resources Restricting Rights: Fiscal Policy, Inequality and Social Rights in Peru

Undertaken in close collaboration with Peruvian organizations and researchers, this report and accompanying video finds that underfunding of key social programs is driving stark ethnic, gender and economic disparities in the rights to education and health. Bilingual intercultural education for the country's Indigenous children is

increasingly under threat, while the right of cancer patients to access adequate and prompt treatment depends in large part on their economic and social status or place of birth. Explaining that the primary reasons for these rights failures is Peru's unjust tax and budget policies, the study proposes fairer fiscal policy alternatives to remedy inequalities and realize rights.

[Link to publication](#)



Brazil Factsheet: Human Rights in Times of Austerity

Co-produced with INESC and Oxfam Brasil, this factsheet explains how advances in social investments and human rights are at imminent risk from a series of harmful and severe austerity measures put in place by the Brazilian government starting in 2015. While aimed at tackling spiking deficits, these

initiatives deepen socioeconomic inequalities in Brazilian society, with particularly disproportionate impacts on those already disadvantaged. This study illustrates how austerity in Brazil stands in serious breach of human rights obligations, including those enshrined in the country's Constitution, while jeopardizing decades of socioeconomic progress.

[Link to publication](#)

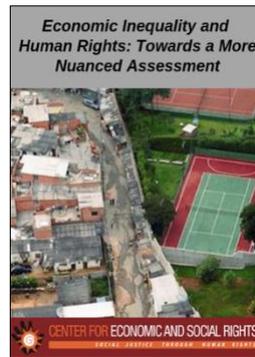


South Africa Factsheet 2018: Austerity in the Midst of Inequality Threatens Human Rights

This factsheet, co-published with the Institute for Economic Justice, Section 27 and the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, finds that austerity policies, in the form of government expenditure cuts and regressive tax changes, add to systemic inequality,

presenting a growing threat to the achievement of social justice for the majority of South Africans. It recommends developing a more equitable and progressive tax policy that contributes to the redistribution of income and wealth and suggests meaningful steps to tackle rampant corruption and state capture.

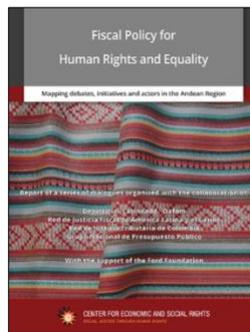
[Link to publication](#)



Economic Inequality and Human Rights: Towards a More Nuanced Assessment

CESR Executive Director Ignacio Saiz' popular blog post rebuts critiques that say the human rights movement has failed entirely to address growing global economic inequality that has contributed to the rise of populist authoritarianism. He instead asserts that such accounts overlook the significant efforts of actors worldwide who use human rights strategies to challenge injustices, such as austerity measures and tax havens, and have leveraged human rights norms and oversight bodies to press for governmental accountability. Saiz characterizes these human rights challenges as a wake-up call for a more holistic approach, rather than a death knell for the movement.

[Link to publication](#)



Fiscal Policy for Human Rights and Equality: Mapping Debates, Initiatives and Actors in the Andean Region

CESR and six regional and national partners – DeJusticia, Red de Justicia Tributaria de América Latina y el Caribe, Latindadd, Red de Justicia Fiscal from Colombia, Oxfam International and Grupo Nacional Sobre Presupuesto Público in Peru—with input from

over 50 organizations and experts—map the relationship between fiscal policy, inequality and human rights in the Andean region. This outcome report shows that civil society organizations and social movements must be empowered to shape the policies connected to the distribution of revenues from natural resource exploitation so that it is sustainable, equitable and rights-affirming.

[Link to publication](#)



Egypt Social Progress Indicators: Economic Policy Factsheet

This Egypt Social Progress Indicators (ESPI) factsheet shows that the Egyptian economy would benefit from directing fiscal policy priorities towards improving socioeconomic wellbeing. It finds that raising tax revenue in a more equitable manner could lead to a better distribution of resources and

opportunities. ESPI is a new metric developed jointly by CESR and its partners in Egypt, offering a more multidimensional view of the socioeconomic situation in Egypt and its human impacts.

[Link to publication](#)