

Right to an adequate standard of living (Article 11)

Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights requires the Government to recognise that everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing and housing. It also sets out the right to be free from hunger.

Components of an Adequate Standard of Living



Discussion points on the right to an adequate standard of living:*

- Food poverty – 1 in 10 people are currently living in food poverty resulting in the use of foodbanks – Capuchin Day Centre and Crosscare;
- High cost of foodstuffs and high rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) on these basic items;
- Lack of social housing and increase in housing waiting lists;
- Rise in number of families with children becoming homeless;
- Response to youth homelessness and current aftercare provisions;
- Access to rent supplement and standard of private rented accommodation;
- Lack of provision of adequate housing for certain groups including Travellers, migrants, persons with disabilities, older people;
- Direct provision including living conditions, standard of accommodation, food poverty and clothing allowances;
- Impact of cuts to Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance;
- Impact of cuts to Exceptional Needs Payments and Dietary Supplements on the right to clothing and the right to food.

*This is not an exhaustive list but these issues have arisen through other consultations or through desk research.

Accessing the Right and Available Remedies

- Is information available on how you can access the right?
- Are there any government or state bodies or supports available to help you access the right?
- Do you feel that the process or procedure for you to assert the right is transparent?
- Do you feel that all of the different elements of the right are respected, protected and fulfilled in the way intended by the Committee?
- If you feel that the right is not being respected, do you know if there is a remedy available to you or who to contact?

Vulnerable Groups

- Are there any particular groups of people who face specific discrimination when trying to access a particular right or who are more likely to be affected by the lack of access to the right?
- If so, please give a short outline of the group and describe the nature of the discrimination they face and how this impacts on them.

Government Action

- What steps has the Government taken to progress this right?

In law:

- Have any specific laws been introduced to support better enjoyment of this right?
- Have any specific laws been introduced which impact negatively on the enjoyment of this right?

In policy:

- Has the Government introduced any policy which supports or promotes the better enjoyment of this right?
- Has the Government introduced any policy which negatively impacts on the enjoyment of this right? Please give details.

In budgetary decision-making:

- Has the Government introduced any budgetary measures to support, promote or improve the enjoyment of this right?
- Has the Government introduced any budgetary measures which negatively impact on the enjoyment of this right?
- Has there been any change, positive or negative, in how this right is enjoyed since the economic downturn?
- Do you feel these changes have been reasonable?

Additional information

Do you have any other information or issues that you wish to raise which have not been covered already?