# ACTION FOR SOCIAL RIGHTS" COMMITTEE OF THE INGO CONFERENCE

# FINAL REPORT

Anna Rurka
Outgoing Chair

| Mandate and functioning                           |   |
|---|---|
| 6 objectives in action                            | 2 |
| Points of attention and substantial contributions |   |

Acknowledgements

### MANDATE AND FUNCTIONING

CHAIR: ANNA RURKA
RAPPORTEUR: JEAN BERNARD MARIE

INGOs that contributed to the work of the committee: AEH, European Association of Families, AIC, ATD Fourth World, Caritas Europa, Dynamo International, EASSW, ESAN, Eurocef, Feantsa, FIAPA, Justice and Peace, MIAMSI, Social Platform, RENATE, Soroptimist International of Europe, Volonteurope,

Human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent (Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, 1993).

Social, economic and cultural rights (ESCR) are therefore rights that must be implemented in practice and guaranteed effectively. However, these rights are still underdeveloped and are often considered as "second-class" rights or reduced to "social policy objectives" rather than genuine rights that are enforceable and justiciable.



1993-2024





"THERE CAN BE NO HUMAN DIGNITY WITHOUT EQUALITY, AND THERE CAN BE NO REAL EQUALITY WITHOUT SOLIDARITY, WITHOUT MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN ALL HUMAN BEINGS AND WITHOUT THE RECOGNITION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS" (Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS, DG1).

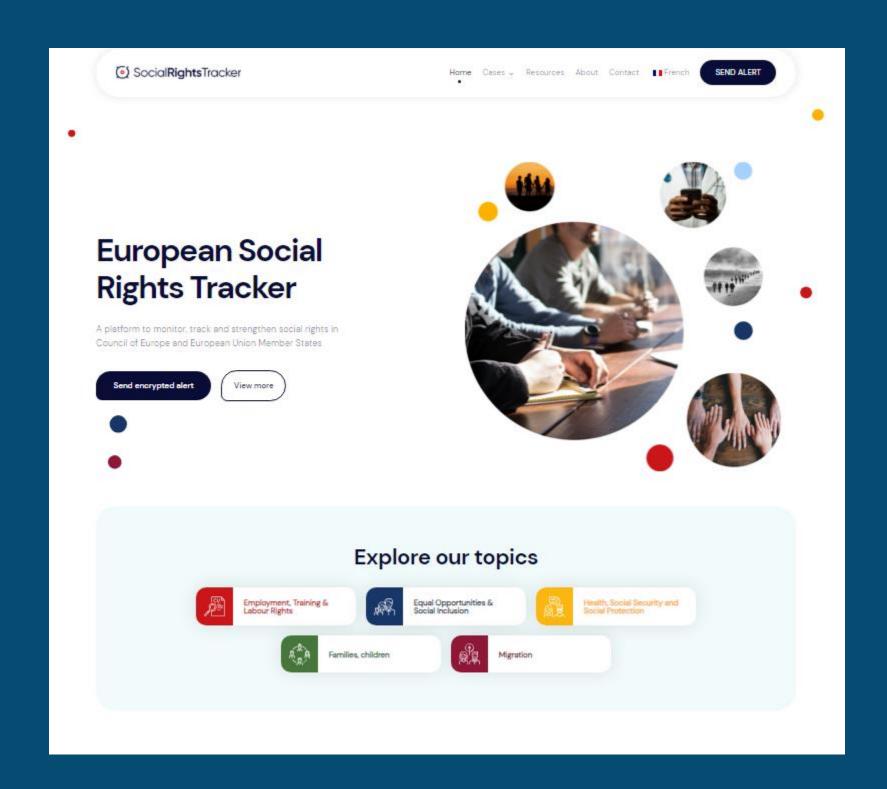
# 6 objectives in action 2021-2024

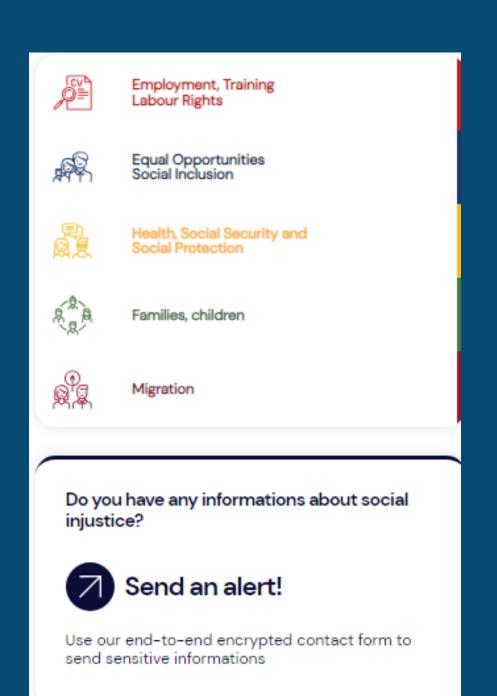
1) TO RAISE AWARENESS
AND PROMOTE, AMONG OING
AND THEIR MEMBERS IN THE
FIELD, THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE RIGHTS
GUARANTEED BY THE ESC

WEBINAR ON "SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION: BREAKING THE PERPETUATION OF POVERTY ACROSS GENERATIONS" (19 FEBRUARY 2024)

2 WEBINARS ORGANISED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
SECRETARIAT OF THE EUROPEAN
SOCIAL CHARTER ON THE IMPACT
OF THE MONITORIGN MECHANISMS
AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL
SOCIETY TO THESE PROCESSES
(29 MARCH AND 14 JUNE 2022)

### SOCIAL RIGHTS TRACKER





2) STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS FOR FULL RATIFICATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES OF ALL ARTICLES OF THE CHARTER, AS WELL AS MORE WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE OF THEACCEPTANCE OF THE COLLECTIVE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN THEIR COMMUNICATION WITH THE STATES ON SOCIAL RIGHTS ISSUES

THE COMMITTEE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEXT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN VILNIUS IN JULY 2024

3) TO ENCOURAGE NATIONAL OR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS TO IDENTIFY CASES OR SITUATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE ESC AND TO SUPPORT THEM IN THE PROCESS OF WHICH WOULD BE TRIGGERED;

DISCUSSION BETWEEN COMMITTEE
MEMBERS AND THE PRESIDENT OF
THE ASSOCIATION "VAINCRE
L'AUTISME" ON THE FEASIBILITY OF
A COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT

4) TO ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGO IN THE ONGOING REFORM OF THE CHARTER

PARTICIPATION IN THE
AD HOC WORKING
GROUP (GT-CHARTE)
SET UP BY THE
COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS ON
IMPROVING THE SOCIAL
CHARTER SYSTEM

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION
(5CONF-AG(2023)REC3) ON THE
RIGHT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION AS
A HUMAN RIGHT - THE NEED TO
TAKE ACTION AGAINST NON-TAKEUP OF RIGHTS

PROPOSAL FOR THE POSITION OF THE INGO CONFERENCE ON THE REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER SYSTEM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTER AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVISED CHARTER

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH
CERTAIN PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
MEMBER STATES INVOLVED IN
THE REFORM OF THE SOCIAL
CHARTER SYSTEM

5) COMBATING
POVERTY: PROVIDING
NGO EXPERTISE TO
COMBAT ALL FORMS OF
POVERTY
POVERTY, ON ALL
FRONTS

6) STRENGTHEN THE
ACTION OF THE OINGIS
REPRESENTED IN
BRUSSELS AND
STRASBOURG TO
PROMOTE THE EU SOCIAL
RIGHTS BASE IN SYNERGY
WITH THE CSER SYSTEM.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE VOLONTEUROPE EVENT "CIVIL SOCIETY PROTECTING AND ADVANCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN EUROPE" 20 JUNE 2023 NEW INFORMATION PANEL WITH THE MESSAGE IN ENGLISH OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS STONE AGAINST POVERTY OFFERED BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF IRELAND. (2023)

4 COMMEMORATIONS BRINGING TOGETHER COUNCIL OF EUROPE PERSONALITIES TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Including

EVENT "PUTTING AN END TO NON-RECOURSE - FOR EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND SERVICES FOR ALL" ON 17 OCTOBER 2022

EVENTS TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY (17 OCTOBER) AND EUROPEAN ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY (18 OCTOBER).

## Points of attention for the future

States should commit to combating inequality by ratifying and universally applying the rights set out in the Revised European Social Charter.

The Charter system is a whole. There are substantial and interdependent links between the articles of the Social Charter and the Additional Protocol on Collective Complaints Procedure,

Article 30 of the European Social Charter states that "everyone has the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion". Only 19 of our 46 Member States have accepted this provision.

EU accession to the European Social Charter should be encouraged, as has been proposed by various players, including the European Parliament, thus in order to strengthen the scope of application of social rights and their collective guarantee.

Remove the limitation on personal scope of application whereby the Charter applies to foreigners "only insofar as they are nationals of other Contracting Parties lawfully residing or lawfully working the territory of the Contracting Party concerned

This restrictive clause, in the Annex to the Charter does not comply with the requirement for universal application of human rights and excludes from this protection categories of particularly vulnerable populations present on the territory of States Parties

# Ongoing work and vigilance for INGOs

#### ·ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES

To facilitate the ratification of the unaccepted provisions of the CSER, INGOs can advocate for government policies that are in line with the standards of the Charter. They can raise awareness among political decision-makers, the media and the general public of the causes and consequences of the inequalities that result.

#### · A PLEA FOR ECO-SOCIAL JUSTICE

SYSTEMICALLY INTEGRATE THE REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESMENT in the legislation process, particularly those relating to the environment, in order to build an inclusive environmental and economic model, respectful of social and economic rights of vulnerable people

COMBAT DISCRIMINATION STEMMING FROM SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES: "POVERTISM", IN THE SAME WAY AS COMBATING HOMOPHOBIA AND RACISM.

# BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF MARGINALISED GROUPS TO CLAIM THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

#### CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL NGO:

INGOs and CINGO can provide technical assistance and capacity-building to local civil society organisations to lodge collective complaints and assess access to economic and social rights.





POVERTY IS THE RESULT OF A POLITICAL CHOICE AND ENDING POVERTY IS ALSO A POLITICAL CHOICE. ENDING POVERTY IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE POLITICAL CHOICE AND THE SOLUTIONS ARE AT A HANDSIDE'S EASY REACH. FAILING TO PUT THEM IN PLACE IS NOT JUST AN ACT OF NEGLECTING THE DUTY OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKERS. IT IS ALSO AN ACT OF CRUELTY, EXTREME CRUELTY. PASSING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POVERTY ONTO THE VICTIMS IS, MOREOVER, A SIGN OF COWARDICE AND A BETRAYAL OF THE PEOPLE THEY HAVE A DUTY TO CARE FOR.

Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS, DG 1, on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 10 October 2023

# HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER WITH A VIEW TO MAKING FURTHER COMMITMENTS UNDER THE CHARTER 3-4 JULY 2024, VILNIUS, LITHUANIA