

# Call for Contributions to the

# ESR REVIEW

## Economic & Social Rights Review in Africa

ENSURING RIGHTS MAKE REAL CHANGE

## Gender-Based Poverty, Women and Housing in Urban Areas

Socio-Economic Rights Project (SERP) at the Dullah Omar Institute (DOI), University of the Western Cape invites contributions for the ESR Review, a quarterly publication aimed at informing and educating politicians, policymakers, NGOs, academics, and legal practitioners about key developments in socio-economic rights at both national and international

levels. The ESR Review also seeks to stimulate innovative thinking on how to advance these rights as a tool for poverty alleviation in South Africa and abroad. The upcoming ESR Review issue will highlight key aspects of gender-based poverty in urban areas, focusing on women and housing.

### Key Themes and Topics

As South Africa commemorates three decades of democracy, it is imperative to scrutinise the socio-economic rights status of women, juxtaposed against the constitutional promises and the lived reality faced by marginalized women. This critical evaluation aims to delve into the progress made since the inception of democracy, shedding light on both advancements and persisting challenges, especially in relation to gender-based poverty in urban areas and housing opportunities.

The endeavour to review this journey is not only an acknowledgment of the strides taken but also a recognition of the invaluable contributions made by various stakeholders and role players. It is an opportunity to honour their efforts in advocating for gender equality and socio-economic justice, especially in relation to access to housing.

The upcoming ESR Review issue will highlight key aspects of gender-based poverty in urban areas, focusing on women and housing. This is valuable as housing connects to gender-based poverty in urban areas in various ways. While adequate housing provides a person with a place to live in dignity and security, it also holds opportunity for income generation and holds a social function as a site for social exchange and gathering.

These functions and assets of housing, play an important role in urban areas and are determined by gender and socio-economic status. Moreover, urbanisation processes such as structural changes in the housing and financial markets have given housing an increased economic function, leading to the financialization and commodification of housing.

While gender inequality inherent in political, legal and social structures as well as the legacy of apartheid, influence the socio-economic status of women, urbanisation has created new patterns of discrimination and inequality leading to spatial and socio-economic marginalization, unequal access to basic service and spatial segregation.

This call for articles aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of the intricate links between housing, gender, and socio-economic rights, contributing to the ongoing dialogue on achieving true gender equality and socio-economic justice in South Africa. In this vein, we extend an invitation for articles that meticulously analyse the constitutional and human rights promises, particularly as they pertain to the right to housing in the context of gender-based poverty in urban areas, gender-based violence, and pervasive inequality. We encourage submissions that offer insightful intersections between policy frameworks and the lived experiences of marginalized women.



# Conceptual Themes

### 1. Gender-Based Poverty and Urban Inequality

- a) Examine how gender-based poverty in urban areas exacerbates social and economic inequalities for women.
- b) Investigate the intersection of poverty, gender, and urban living conditions.
- c) Framing gender-based poverty in urban areas as a human rights issue.

### 2. Gender inequality and Role of International, National, and Civil Society Organizations

- a) Explore the roles of international organizations and NGOs in supporting women's socio-economic rights and addressing gender-based poverty and the right to housing in urban areas.
- b) Case studies of successful interventions and programs.

### 3. Housing as a Human Right

- a) Debate the conceptualization of housing as a fundamental human right for women, particularly in post-apartheid South Africa.
- b) Discuss the implications of framing housing as a right versus a commodity.
- c) Discuss and examining approaches for gender-mainstreaming the different components of the right to adequate housing in urban areas (e.g. security of tenure, accessibility of materials, services and infrastructure, affordability of housing, evictions).

### 4. Housing: Legal and Policy Frameworks

- a) Evaluate the impact of policy and legislation on women's housing rights.
- b) Comparative analysis of policies across different African countries.

### 5. Intersectionality in Housing Issues

- a) Analyse how intersecting identities (e.g., race, class, disability) affect women's experiences with housing and urban poverty.
- b) Explore the compounded disadvantages faced by marginalized women.
- c) Explore the impact of other issues such as climate change on the right to housing in urban areas for people affected by gender-based poverty.
- d) Discuss urbanisation processes and their influence on the right to adequate housing for people affected by gender-based poverty.

### 6. Women's Barriers and Challenges to Access to Adequate Housing

- a) Assess barriers women face in accessing adequate housing in South Africa and other African nations.
- b) Evaluate the impact of (urban and development) policy and legislation on women's housing rights in urban areas.

### 7. Strategies for Women to Address Housing Challenges

- a) Identify and evaluate strategies women use to overcome housing challenges in urban areas.
- b) Document grassroots movements, community-based solutions, and advocacy efforts.

### 8. Gender-based Violence and the Right to Housing for Women

- a) Review legal and policy frameworks that support or undermine women's housing rights, especially for GBV survivors.

#### b) Housing Options for GBV Survivors:

- i) Examine the availability and effectiveness of housing options for women who have survived gender-based violence (GBV) in the Global South.
- ii) Analyse shelter models, transitional housing, and long-term housing solutions.

#### c) Impact of Gender-Based Violence on Housing Stability

- i) Investigate how experiences of gender-based violence shape women's housing stability and overall living conditions.
- ii) Examine the psychological and social effects of GBV on housing security.

### 9. Socio-Economic Empowerment Through Housing

- a) Investigate how access to secure and adequate housing can empower women socio-economically.
- b) Discuss the challenges and opportunities of urbanisation processes for socio-economic empowerment of marginalized women with a focus on housing.
- c) Explore housing as a tool for poverty reduction and social protection.

# Writing Guidelines

## 1. Article Length

- Articles should be no longer than 3,000 words. Contributions for the case review should be 2,500 words; policy developments and legislation analysis should be 1,500 words; events section should be 1,500 words; and the publications (book review) section should be 1,000 words.

## 2. Content and Language

- Contributions should preferably articulate and amplify the voice of the author.
- Contributions should be written in a simple, clear style, avoiding technical language and legal jargon where possible, ensuring accessibility for both legal practitioners and grassroots human rights organisations.
- Contributions should be opinion pieces or serve an advocacy function, rather than simply stating legal principles or being purely descriptive.
- Contributions should not be a marketing exercise for a particular project or programme.
- Contributions should lean towards offering opinion

pieces or fulfilling an advocacy role, as opposed to merely presenting legal principles or providing purely descriptive content.

## 3. References and notes

- No footnotes. Rather try to work explanations into the text.
- Where possible, contributions can use hyperlinks instead of references.
- Use the abbreviated Harvard style of referencing, for example: “Child abuse is rising (Author 1999:10)” or “According to Author (1999:10), child abuse is rising”.
- Keep references to the absolute minimum – preferably only for publications from which direct quotes have been taken, or for backing up potentially contentious statements.
- Provide a list of the key references at the end of the contribution.
- Style related issues: Font: Times New Roman or Arial 11, Spacing: 1,5, Quotes: double quotation marks, Headings: We encourage the use of headings but they should not go beyond heading 2.

## Submission Guidelines

- Send contributions in electronic format (MS Word) to at [serp@uwc.ac.za](mailto:serp@uwc.ac.za) and CC : [kelly.jane.bishop@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.jane.bishop@gmail.com)– until the **7th July 2024**.
- **Identification:** Provide your full name and current position. Titles and qualifications are not necessary.
- **Publications:** If the article has been published elsewhere, provide full details, including whether it has been shortened, updated, or substantially changed for the ESR Review and whether the required authorisations have been granted.
- **Contact:** For any questions or further clarifications, please reach out to the editors at [serp@uwc.ac.za](mailto:serp@uwc.ac.za), and CC [kelly.jane.bishop@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.jane.bishop@gmail.com)

Previous Issues ESR Review are available online at [ESR Review](#) or [Journals.co.za](#)

We look forward to your insightful contributions and to advancing the conversation on gender-based poverty and housing challenges for women in urban areas.