

**The Coalition for an Optional Protocol to the
International Covenant on Economic, Social and
Cultural Rights**

Take Action NOW! Advocacy Kit

**Activities targeting the
Open-Ended Working Group
Geneva, 23 February to 5 March 2004**

Introduction

Right now, there is an opportunity for you and your organization to make a difference to the way in which economic, social and cultural rights are thought about both within your own community and internationally.

We need the voices of many to challenge governments who oppose a legal framework of redress for economic, social and cultural rights. These governments do not think it is necessary to provide legal redress to individuals and communities who experience, for example, forced evictions, or are denied the right to health care, or are forced to work in unsafe conditions for less than a living wage, or are denied the right to water or their customary lands.

From **Monday 23 February to Friday 5 March 2004** governments and civil society representatives will be meeting in Geneva to discuss future work an international enforcement mechanism for the range of rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The NGO Coalition for an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR is a growing network of organisations and individuals committed to the adoption of an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR. There is a core group of active members, including representatives from the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE); FIAN- International; the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); the International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAW-Asia Pacific); the Social Rights Advocacy Centre; and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT); and the Adjudication Working Group of the ESCR-Net. Supporters of the work of the group are kept informed of activities through an email list. If you would like to join the list please go to <http://www.nwjc.org.au/avcwl/lists/info/op-icescr.html>.

This Advocacy Kit provides you with all the materials you need to take action domestically and internationally, and will enable you to make a difference to the way economic, social and cultural rights are thought about both within your own community, and internationally.

“A Quick Guide to the Kit” will help you work out, in a speedy fashion, which bit is right for you!

This Kit contains contributions from the following individuals: Bruce Porter (SRAC and Adjudication Working Group of ESCR-Net), Caroline Lambert (IWRAW Asia Pacific), Edwin Berry (ICJ), Mal Langford (COHRE), Maria Graterol (IWRAW Asia Pacific), Nathalie Mivalez (OMCT).

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