

Poverty, Women and Social Security in South Africa
Oral statement, June 2021
The Justice Desk
245 words

South Africa has been declared the most unequal country in the world, with 60% of South Africans reportedly living in poverty.¹ Women still face the disproportionate burden of poverty, non-monetised care work and limited access to education and labour opportunities.²

Poverty is an underlying cause and effect of global injustice. We are currently failing our most vulnerable groups, especially women of colour from poorer communities. Therefore, Edmund Rice International (ERI) and The Justice Desk (TJD)- South Africa recommend the following:

- i. The Human Rights Council is requested to approve and prioritise the suggestion of a global fund for social protections, tabled by the Special Rapporteur³, along with the implementation of the following recommendations identified by ERI and TJD:
 - a. The provision of training to non-governmental and community based organisations in the significance, development and local implementation of social security and protection.
 - b. To allocate resources to non-governmental and community based organisations who can assist in the implementation and monitoring of a global fund for social security.
 - c. To push for the wider recognition of, and the payment for work rendered by women partaking in the non-monetised care economy who desperately need access to social security.
 - d. To establish a plan for social protection investments which would protect low-income countries from exploitation from donor countries, as well as provide recourse for any such exploitation.
 - e. To ensure the provision and capacity-building of strong accountability mechanisms, as well as governance bodies to monitor implementation and curb corruption.

¹World Bank. (2021). "Poverty and Equity Brief: South Africa". Available: https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/AM2020/Global_POVEQ_ZAF.pdf [accessed 27 May 2021].

²Chiwara, L. (2017). "Situating the Maputo Protocol in Key Issues: Changing the narrative for women in Africa" in AU "Women's Rights in Africa". Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 20 https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/WomensRightsinAfrica_singlepages.pdf [accessed 27 May 2021].

³Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Olivier De Schutter, for the Forty-Seventh Session of the Human Rights Council to be held 21 June – 9 July 2021. (22 April 2021). "Global Fund for Social Protection: International Solidarity in the Service of Poverty Eradication". UN Doc: A/HRC/47/36. Page 4.