

# **Poverty as a Human Rights Violation?**

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Symposium held at Karen Holiday Homes, Nairobi  
September 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Organized by the Centre for Human Rights and Peace,  
University of Nairobi, in collaboration with the  
Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo**

This Symposium addresses experiences, opportunities and constraints on human rights and rights-based approaches to poverty eradication in Kenya, and selected cases from other East African countries. The main purpose is to produce and exchange original research on human rights and poverty reduction with the aim of disseminating such findings through international publications.

Poverty means “deficiency in necessary properties or desirable qualities” and it is thus not limited to being in a state of need or lack of means of subsistence (situations which determine the extent of financial need of a person / group). Being impoverished is more than lacking financial means. It is inadequacy, destitution and deprivation of economic, political, and social and human resources. This broader perspective shows that poverty is multidimensional.

The Center for Human Rights and Peace at the University of Nairobi is organizing a symposium on *Poverty as a Human Rights Violation?* and is calling upon Social Science and Law Scholars in Kenya and East Africa to expand their realm of poverty research and discourse in order to truly evaluate the situation of poverty in our region from human rights perspectives. Contributors are invited to develop papers, bearing in mind the past historical injustices, individual government policies, the regional cooperation efforts, the economic situation, the role of religion, civil society, the political context, and how the current system maintains the advantages of the privileged to favor status quo.

The Symposium aims at raising a research based public discourse on poverty as a serious and composite human rights problem in Kenya and East Africa in general; and as an obstacle to building peace and prosperity within and among groups.

**By making empirical and analytical links between human rights and poverty, the thematic foci of the conference will revolve around the following set of issues;**

- Indicators of poverty in Kenya and other East African countries;
- National policies and measures for the eradication of poverty in the region;
- Regional efforts to tackle poverty and inequality;
- Participatory approaches to poverty eradication;
- Poverty production and how power influence actors who mobilize against poverty;
- Gender based inequalities;
- Poverty and vulnerable populations (Children, Refugees, Pastoralists communities etc.);
- Urban and Rural poverty;
- Access to land and land right education

Papers may be empirical, conceptual and/or explorative: Is poverty a human rights violation? How have human rights been used in fighting poverty? How can human rights be used to fight poverty in the future?

Authors are encouraged to examine factors, processes and actors constraining the implementation of a human rights-based approach to poverty alleviation and how such constraints may be tackled and overcome. Papers from different disciplines are invited i.e. law, sociology, political science, anthropology, development studies, media and communication studies etc.

We intend to bring together academicians, policymakers and civil society actors interested in applying research on human rights and poverty in their own activities. Attendance is limited to 35 participants who shall be required to present and discuss high quality papers. The papers will focus on case studies where human rights principles and approaches have been, or could be applied to fight poverty at local, regional and national levels.

The Symposium organizers intend to publish selected papers from the conference in an edited volume by a reputed publisher in 2012.

### **Are you interested?**

Please communicate your interest in submitting an abstract (400 words) which may be eligible for presentation, by e-mail to *Dr. J.B Ndohvu*, email address: [director-chrp@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:director-chrp@uonbi.ac.ke)

**Deadline for submission of abstract and Bio Data:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011. If accepted the CHRP shall communicate to you and formally request for a full paper (8,000 – 9,000 words) on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 **Deadline for Submission of full paper:** September 14, 2011

All participants shall be accommodated at the (venue) Karen Holiday Homes, for the duration of the Symposium. Transport to and from the venue shall also be provided.

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The **Centre for Human Rights and Peace (CHRP) of the University of Nairobi** was established in 2008 under the statutes of the University. It is a pioneer academic center for education, research and outreach activities on human rights and peace in Kenya with a chief vision of becoming an educational center of excellence for the creation of an inclusive society that values and respects human rights and peace.

The **Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) of the University of Oslo** was established in 1987 to promote the practice of internationally adopted human rights by means of academic research, teaching, assessment and consultancies, training, information and documentation. The Centre is multidisciplinary. It is the National Institution on Human Rights in Norway. Website: <http://www.jus.uio.no/smr/english/>

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