

Copenhagen/Geneva, 25 September 2024

Dear NHRI representative/Ombudsperson,

The United Nations Human Rights Office and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute together with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Swedish Institute for Human Rights and the German Institute for Human Rights are pleased to invite you to a two-day consultation on the state of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) in Europe. The consultations are co-organized by our respective organizations with the support of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and will be hosted by the Danish Institute for Human Rights in Copenhagen on 12 and 13 November 2024.

The consultations will be focusing on key challenges to the realization of ESCR in Europe. This includes the right to adequate housing and homelessness, the rights to food, health, social security as well as other economic, social and cultural rights and related issues such as the cost-of-living crisis, disproportionate and discriminatory impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups, budgeting and accountability for the realization of ESCR, domestic backsliding and regression from achieved standards. They will also focus on the role of National Human Rights Institutions, national and local authorities, Parliaments and CSOs in this regard. The aim of the consultations is identifying good practices and tools that can assist the realization of ESCR at the country level. This will take place through two days of discussions in roundtable format with both duty bearers and rights holders.

Please see the attached concept note for more details about the consultations.

Organized as part of the implementation of the vision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on ESCR, these consultations aim at contributing to increase the focus and resources towards the realization of ESCR and thereby addressing key human rights challenges in Europe. Amplifying action on economic, social and cultural rights will also serve as an accelerator for implementing progress on other human rights. This is in line with the 2024 Vilnius Declaration and aligns with current strategic plans for GANHRI and ENNHRI, whereby increased sharing of knowledge and experiences and strengthening of partnerships in the field of ESC rights is key to building the capacity needed to address some of the most pervasive and pressing human rights challenges in Europe today.

We look forward to hearing from you by Friday 11 October at therese.arnesen@un.org regarding your availability to participate in the consultations.

Best regards,

P. Wagle

Morten Koch Andersen

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