The courts in South Africa have tried to enforce the housing rights of people facing eviction. However, though legislation and policies offer protection as well, evictions are a regular occurrence that at times result in homelessness and often occur in a way that is incompatible with respect for human rights.

Many poor and vulnerable people are evicted without being given an opportunity to oppose their eviction or put their case in court, without adequate notice of when the eviction order will be carried out and, in some instances, without being given suitable alternative accommodation. More often than not, those facing eviction are not aware of their rights or confront obstacles in enforcing them through the legal system.

The publication *Evictions in South Africa: Relevant international and national standards*, by Lilian Chenwi, provides useful and accessible information on the substantive and procedural standards in international and national law relating to evictions. It aims to raise awareness of these standards so that people can have the relevant information to advance housing rights. It is a useful guide for non-governmental organisations, academics, students, paralegals and legal practitioners assisting those facing eviction and advocating reform in housing rights and evictions.

This updated booklet by Sibonile Khoza explains what the “right to food” means and how it is protected in the Constitution and in international law, describes the obligations it places on the state, provides information about government policies and programmes and how to get access to them, and suggests ways and means to promote the right to food.

The booklet is available in four languages: English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa and isiZulu.

Christopher Mbazira, 2008. *You are the “weakest link” in realising socio-economic rights: Goodbye – Strategies for effective implementation of court orders in South Africa*. Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape

The justiciable place of socio-economic rights in the South African Constitution is being undermined by non-compliance with court orders issued in court processes involving the enforcement of these rights. This has, in some cases, left successful litigants stranded and unable to benefit from the orders arising from their victories.

This research paper by Christopher Mbazira (published as Research Series 3 of the Socio-Economic Rights Project) reviews a number of socio-economic rights judgments and discusses the extent to which the orders granted in those cases have been complied with. It also sketches the courts’ approach to interpreting the substance of socio-economic rights. The paper goes on to suggest the best strategies for implementing court orders in socio-economic rights cases.

George Mpedi, 2008. *Pertinent social security issues in South Africa*. Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape

South Africa has a fairly evolved system of social security for a developing country, but that system nevertheless remains seriously deficient in a number of respects.
This is particularly clear when one considers the socio-economic challenges facing the country, such as poverty and inequality, HIV/AIDS and unemployment. In addition, a closer examination of specific components of the social security system - the legislative framework, the institutional and administration structure, the scope of coverage and the adjudication and enforcement mechanisms - leads one to the conclusion that it needs an urgent overhaul.

This research paper by George Mpedi (published as Research Series 4 of the Socio-Economic Rights Project) provides some perspectives on the South African social security system, including the South African Social Security Agency. The paper first analyses the social and political context of poverty in South Africa. It then proceeds with a theoretical discussion of the concepts of social security and comprehensive social protection. This is followed by an exploration of the South African social security framework - the legal, institutional and administrative framework, the scope of social security coverage, and social security adjudication and enforcement. Finally, the paper identifies gaps and challenges within the social security system, assesses the opportunities for developing a comprehensive social security system in South Africa, and provides some recommendations as to how the social security system might be improved.

For printed copies, contact the Socio-Economic Rights Project on +27 21 959 3708/2950 or serp@uwc.ac.za.

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ESR REVIEW**

The Socio-Economic Rights Project of the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape welcomes contributions to be published in the ESR Review.

The ESR Review is a quarterly publication that aims to inform and educate politicians, policy-makers, NGOs, the academic community and legal practitioners about key developments relating to socio-economic rights at the national and international levels. It also seeks to stimulate creative thinking on how to advance these rights as a tool for poverty alleviation in South Africa and abroad.

**Contributions**

- should reflect contemporary debate or spark new debate;
- should be opinion pieces or serve an advocacy function, rather than simply stating legal principles or being descriptive in nature;
- should not be on a topic already published in the ESR Review, unless they take the debate forward;
- should not be a marketing exercise for a particular project or programme; and
- should be written in a simple, clear style that avoids technical language and legal jargon where possible, taking into account that the ESR Review is read by both legal practitioners and grassroots human rights organisations.

Send contributions in electronic format (MSWord) to serp@uwc.ac.za or lchenwi@uwc.ac.za. Provide your full name and present position. Titles and qualifications are not necessary.

If the article has already been published elsewhere, give full details, including whether it has been shortened, updated or substantially changed for the ESR Review and whether the required authorisations have been granted.

**Length**

Contributions should be no longer than 3 000 words, except contributions for the Events section (1 500 words) and the Publications (Book Review) section (1 000 words).

**References and notes**

- No footnotes. Rather try to work explanations into the text.
- 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.
- Provide a list of the key references.

This and previous issues of the ESR Review are available online: www.communitylawcentre.org.za/Socio-Economic-Rights/esr-review.