



Redefining purpose – re-framing economics

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Human Rights Economics

- I. The human rights legal framework in support of New Economy principles
- II. Conceptualization of how to implement New Economy principles
- III. The strength of a global movement

Aim → Systemic change to economics



I. Human rights legal framework and New Economy principles

- Social reproduction, recognizing value of care and natural resources
- Planetary boundaries, regenerative economy (sustainability)
- (Eco)systems approach
- Equity, solidarity, substantive equality (inclusivity)
- Recognition of power imbalances
- Recognition of different cultures, values and sources of knowledge (pluralism, localism)

Aim → Systemic change to economics



I. Human rights legal framework and New Economy principles

Legal obligations are set out in binding form, e.g.:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in force since 1976. **173 States parties**
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, in force since 1981. **189 States parties**
- **Domestic** constitutional and legal provisions in most countries.



II. Human Rights principles

Most relevant Human Rights principles:

- Accountability
- Non-discrimination (substantive equality)
- Interrelated and interdependent
- Participation
- Cultural rights
- Policies must be based on evidence.



II. Human Rights principles

Recognizes resource constraints but immediate obligations:

- Non-discrimination
- Obligation to take steps
- Avoid retrogressive measures
- Basic core obligations
- International Cooperation and Assistance.



II. Human Rights principles

- Human rights principles = legal obligations
- Not an add-on but direct us to fundamentally reconsider economic thinking and policy choices.



https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/care_economy_2_en_web.pdf



III. The strength of a global Human Rights movement

- + Human rights has achieved political systems change
- + Strong global human rights movement
- + Human rights accountability mechanisms

☹️ Strength of dominant economic discourse: hard for non-economists to navigate



Human Rights Economics

Thank you

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What is Human Rights Economics?

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Human rights economics strives for an economic system that is just for people and the planet, that promotes social and