

A human rights lens on social security advocacy with a focus on gender

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Gender and social security

- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Poverty and social security
- ▶ Inequality
- ▶ Poverty is gendered
- ▶ Inequality is intersectional

International Human Rights Framework

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- The United Nations logo, featuring a world map surrounded by olive branches, is centered in the background of the slide.
- ▶ Right to social security
 - ▶ Right to an adequate standard of living
 - ▶ Right to non-discrimination between men and women
 - ▶ ICESCR, CEDAW, ILO and other treaties
 - ▶ Australia's obligations
 - ▶ Treaty body reporting, individual complaints, UPR, UN Special Rapporteurs

Domestic Human Rights Framework

- ▶ No federal bill of rights
- ▶ State and territory human rights Acts - no right to social security
- ▶ Human rights scrutiny legislation and the PJCHR
- ▶ Anti-discrimination law?

Advocating for social security rights - background

- ▶ The Northern Territory Intervention
- ▶ Conditional social security
- ▶ Basics Card
- ▶ Cuts to Parenting Payment (individual complaint)

Advocating for social security rights - the case of ParentsNext

- ▶ 2019 Senate Inquiry
- ▶ 2021 PJCHR Inquiry



Reflections on human rights advocacy in Australia

- ▶ Limits to the international advocacy
- ▶ Limits to the domestic advocacy
- ▶ Value of framing in rights terms
- ▶ Value of claiming rights

