



A COMMON CHARTER FOR COLLECTIVE STRUGGLE

For 18 months, leaders of diverse social movements from around the world came together to develop a shared analysis and a call for collective action. This led to the Common Charter for Collective Struggle being adopted by the entire ESCR-Net membership as a starting point for coordinated, transformative action.

As social movements, grassroots groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we speak different languages and have our own histories. **Still, we recognize that we have more in common, especially in what we're struggling against and what we're working for.**

COMMON CONDITIONS AND SHARED CHALLENGES

In a world of plenty, we are being made poor.

We live in a world with more than enough for all people, yet in the relentless pursuit of profit nature is commodified, our lands are seized and hard-won worker protections are stripped away.

"WE ARE NOT POOR; WE ARE MADE POOR. WE CAN'T FIGHT POVERTY BUT WE NEED TO FIGHT AGAINST THAT WHICH IMPOVERISHES US."

-MKHALISENI NDAOBH MZIMELA OF ABAHLALI BASEMJONDOLO, SOUTH AFRICA

"THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOOD PRODUCED IN THE WORLD TO FEED EVERYONE, YET 815 MILLION PEOPLE GO HUNGRY."

-FIRST WORDS FROM THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2017.

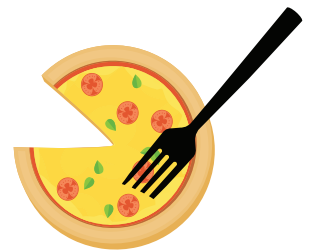


Powerful corporations are capturing our hard-won democratic institutions.

The demands of global capital — serving the private interests of a small economic elite — shape elections, laws, economic policies and government institutions, at the expense of our public interest, human rights and environment.

Deepening inequality is undermining our dignity and shared well-being.

Patriarchal, racist, and anti-indigenous logics have historically been used to justify inequalities and divide potential resistance. Despite relying on the work of women, migrants, and other marginalized people to function — often through their unpaid or underpaid labor — our current economic system concentrates wealth and power to an elite few. Meanwhile, most of us face compounding barriers to a dignified life.



CAPITAL AND GOODS CAN EASILY CROSS BORDERS, BUT MOST MIGRANT WORKERS — OFTEN CALLED "ILLEGAL" — REMAIN UNPROTECTED.

Our environment is being irreparably destroyed.

The rampant extraction of natural resources and burning of fossil fuels for the benefit of a few, drives climate change and threatens the life, livelihood and health of all the people who inhabit the earth — disproportionately affecting our most vulnerable communities.



As we reclaim our rights, we are being persecuted.

We are facing surveillance, defamation, funding restrictions, threats and violence by government, military, paramilitary, companies and other private actors as we defend and promote human rights.



In the face of these shared challenges, we have resolved to move beyond a reactive solidarity and focus our efforts on proactively confronting root causes grounded in our shared values and aims:

EMERGING POINTS OF UNITY

RECLAIMING HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are ours from birth and emerged as articulated global standards from legacies of social struggle for human dignity, equality and wellbeing. **We claim human rights to reinforce the legitimacy of our demands for justice.**

CONNECTING OUR STRUGGLES

Coming from both rural and urban areas, in wealthy and poor countries alike, our power lies in the recognition of how our struggles are linked.

To face these systemic challenges, we come together to:

- Confront the corporate capture of state institutions and decision-making processes
- Affirm the universal, non-negotiable rights to equality, life and livelihood — and the obligation of governments to ensure that all human rights are realized
- Question the morality of profit, which is too often framed as the inevitable cost of “progress”

CENTERING MARGINALIZED LEADERS

Already, conditions have pushed groups into action. We ground our movements in lived experience and **actively promote leadership of the poor, women and grassroots youth**, strengthening our shared analysis and coordinated actions.

ARTICULATING ALTERNATIVE MODELS

Together, we envision a world that:

- Affirms human dignity, as well as our connections to each other, future generations and all life
- Demands substantive gender equality as a prerequisite for any form of progress
- Safeguards space for dissent and “the right to claim rights”
- Embodies an inclusive future where all people enjoy a shared wellbeing and full participation, without discrimination

“YOUR PROBLEM IS MY PROBLEM AND YOUR STRUGGLE IS MY STRUGGLE.”

-HERMAN KUMARA, NATIONAL FISHERIES SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION, SRI LANKA

“WE MUST DEMONIZE PROFIT AND MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A BAD WORD”

-LEGBORSI SARO PYAGBARA, MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE OGONI PEOPLE, NIGERIA

“THERE IS ENOUGH FOR NEED, NOT FOR GREED”

-PRAFULLA SAMANTARA, LOK ABHAY SHAKTI, INDIA

“ESCR-NET’S SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ARE ALL CALLING FOR THE SAME THING: TO END POVERTY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE POOR AND THOSE THAT FIGHT TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS.”

-IDA LEBLANC, NATIONAL UNION FOR DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITHIN YOUR MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

How do these common challenges and emerging points of unity **connect with your experiences?**

What happens after realizing that our struggles are connected?
What is the way forward?

Please share your reflections and insights with us at: cc@escr-net.org

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