



MONITORING WORKING GROUP

-

COMMUNITY-LED MONITORING PROJECT

Phase 1: Mapping members' initiatives on community-led monitoring to identify common strategies and challenges and inform collective action of ESCR-Net members.

a. Name of the organization	<i>Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR)</i>
b. Name of the initiative (if applicable)	<p><i>Below are a list of projects and campaigns we are supporting or have supported over the last number of years</i></p> <p><i>Right to Housing & Accommodation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Equality Can't Wait (Belfast)</i> • <i>Homeless Action (Northern Ireland)</i> • <i>Travellers of North Cork (Republic of Ireland)</i> • <i>Housing4All – rights for asylum seekers (Belfast)</i> • <i>Edinburgh Tenants Federation (Scotland)</i> <p><i>Right to Work & Social Security:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>#REALJOBSNOW (ring-fencing jobs for the long-term unemployed into public procurement contracts)</i> • <i>#PeoplesProposal (campaign to apply basic rights to due process for people being sanctioned from social security benefits)</i> • <i>UNISON Community & Voluntary Workers Rights Monitor</i> <p><i>Right to Health:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belfast Mental Health Rights Group</i> • <i>Mental Health Rights Campaign (Northern Ireland)</i>

	<p><i>Right to Education:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuistí an Tuaiscirt - #busanois (Belfast) • <i>upcoming</i> – partnership with Irish National Teachers Organisation campaign against Academic Selection at age 11
<p>c. Context</p>	<p>All of the initiatives seek to address persisting social and economic inequalities and human rights abuses. They do so by mobilising some of the most marginalised groups in society to engage in human rights monitoring around their priority social and economic rights issues.</p> <p>Our key methodology is the grassroots and participatory monitoring of progressive realisation.</p> <p>From a solid evidence base we support groups to develop strategies for effective campaigns for positive change by ensuring that their experiences are valued and their voices prioritised when decisions are made about policy development, implementation, evaluation and resource allocation.</p> <p>Most of our work takes place in ‘post-conflict’ Northern Ireland. PPR emerged in the early 2000s as a response to growing inequalities in the north of Ireland, despite groundbreaking equality legislation which formed part of the 1998 peace accord – and in the south of Ireland, despite the economic boom witnessed during the Celtic Tiger era. The approach has spread to other contexts however.</p>
<p>d. What is being monitored?</p>	<p>We support marginalised groups to monitor whether the state is complying with its obligation to progressively realise social and economic rights.</p> <p>Precisely what is being monitored is determined locally by people themselves. For example our housing rights campaigns have monitored issues such as dampness, sewage ingress, satisfaction with maintenance responses, duration of homelessness among others.</p> <p>PPR supports groups to identify domestic and international human rights, legislative and policy standards which outline the duty bearers’ obligations on the particular matter.</p>

	<p>Initial research is carried out to establish a baseline of the status quo – who is affected by a particular issue, how are they affected and how many are affected. From this baseline, and being conscious of the state’s obligations, human rights indicators and benchmarks are set by the group over a defined period. The indicators and benchmarks are used to hold the state and its agencies accountable for their obligations.</p>
<p>e. Who is monitoring?</p>	<p>People directly affected by social and economic rights abuses – homelessness, long-term unemployment, destitution – lead the process at each stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification of priority issues • development of action research methodologies • carrying out research among other affected groups • analysing the data • developing human rights indicators and benchmarks • monitoring state compliance with progressive realisation • using research and the monitoring process as an evidence base for effective campaigning <p>PPR has organising, policy and administrative resources which are used to support the various groups and partners we work with. We support the development of grassroots activism and leadership through mentoring & training, building alliances, carrying out policy and research analysis to demystify core human rights standards and principles, developing supportive public policy narratives and providing administrative support to facilitate meetings, conferences and communications.</p>
<p>f. How is the data collected and analyzed?</p>	<p>The data is collected using different methodologies – surveys, focus groups, audio/video interviews, photographs, for example.</p> <p>The data is entered into a central database and capable of being disaggregated along most equality designations (age, gender, etc)</p> <p>The results are compiled into materials which can then be discussed with the group to develop human</p>

	<p>rights indicators and benchmarks.</p> <p>The data is also used to identify potential case studies for the campaign and identify people who wish to become more involved in the initiative.</p>
<p>g. How is the data collected being used?</p>	<p>The data is used in a variety of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to publicly monitor the state’s performance • in campaign awareness/publicity materials • reports • in briefings to civil society organisations and politicians • protest placards/community art & murals • in meetings with duty bearers • litigation <p>The monitoring process, and the data collected, is an integral part of the whole approach PPR uses. We know that monitoring needs to be accompanied by a strategy of building power and applying pressure.</p>
<p>h. What is the impact?</p>	<p>In addition to the development of human rights and activist skills more generally, here are some examples of the types of change produced through PPR’s housing campaigns alone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • across one year (2015) 82 families received 2,960 housing needs points previously denied to them, 39 received new offers of accommodation and 24 were re-housed, 5 families were awarded compensation of over £1,678, 12 families had rent arrears reduced at a total cost of £27,204 and 22 families had effective maintenance and repairs carried out at their homes • a £900,000 investment by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive into a north Belfast high rise flats (Seven Towers, North Belfast) to install a new sewage system • secured a review of the proposed £7 million scheme to invest in cladding the Seven Towers flats to ensure the appropriate safety checks were carried out and residents needs around insulation were addressed • supported residents to secure investment of approximately £3m into run-down flats in Edinburgh to address persisting dampness and heating problems and install new bathrooms and kitchens • Campaigned for the first ever Equality Impact Assessment being carried out on an urban

	<p>regeneration scheme, the £231m Girdwood Barracks and Crumlin Road Gaol project which was instrumental in ensuring social houses were built on the scheme (approx 70)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • created a unique alliance of housing associations, asylum seekers and funders to develop a pilot project securing 9 units of accommodation for female refused asylum seekers. The accommodation is rent free and all tenants will be provided with Home Office equivalent expenses for 12 months • Secured the opening of 30 void flats which were publicly owned but had been boarded up by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for over two years despite a growing waiting list for homes • Successfully lobbied the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to include specific Concluding Observations to the UK government on Catholic housing inequality in Northern Ireland, urban regeneration, mental health and social security in 2009 and 2016. • achieved the withdrawal of a regeneration plan in the Lower Shankill (West Belfast) and its redevelopment with the full participation of residents ultimately securing first social housing to be built in the area in over 20 years (39 units).
<p>i. What challenges are you facing and what more you'd like to learn?</p>	<p>We continue to learn each time the approach is adapted and applied on different themes & different political and economic contexts. The challenge is always to maintain momentum & pressure and to ensure that participation is genuine and the agenda is not driven by organizational priorities or concerns.</p>
<p>I. Resources/links</p>	<p>Website: https://www.pprproject.org/ Videos: https://www.youtube.com/user/PPRProject/videos</p>