Budget Analysis and Housing in Northern Ireland

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Background

Budget Analysis and the Advancement of Economic and Social Rights in Northern Ireland, funded by Atlantic Philanthropies
What is Human Rights-based Budget Analysis?

An analysis of ‘the budget’ using substantive human rights principles.

Focuses on some or all of the following questions:

• How governments manage the economy and development (macro-economic questions)
• How governments generate resources (direct taxation, indirect taxation, borrowing, grants from elsewhere).
• How governments allocate financial and other resources
• How governments actually spend the resources (expenditure).
• The outcomes achieved by government expenditure.
• The processes of government in making these decisions.
Key Human Rights Principles

Set out and derived from International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, including:

- Minimum core
- Non-retrogression
- Non-discrimination
- Procedural Obligations
- Progressive Realisation
- Maximum Available Resources
Relevant Tools

- Budget Lines
- Underspends / overspends / diversions
- Budget changes over time
- Percentages of total budget or GDP
- Allocations against need
- Beneficiaries
Relevance to Stormont Committee Work

- Do Committee reports mention ICESCR concepts?
- Participation
- Transparency
- Vulnerable
- Prioritisation
- Social outcome
Application of Human Rights – Based Budget Analysis

Budgeting for social housing

• Housing associations and funding
• Transparency and accountability in a multi-agency system
• Need and planning
• Balance between public and private provision and state subsidy for private provision
Rights Based Approach

Key Benefits of a Rights Based Approach

• Obligations
• Specifics
• Justification
• Identify issues
• Accountability
Read our work


Aoife Nolan, *Economic and Social Rights after the Global Financial Crisis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014)


Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland.