



## 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*



# 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, Rory O'Connell and Colin Harvey, *Human Rights and Public Finance* (Hart 2013)

Rory O'Connell, Aoife Nolan, Colin Harvey, Mira Dutschke and Eoin Rooney, *Applying an International Human Rights Framework to State Budget Allocations: Rights and Resources* (Routledge 2014)

Colin Harvey and Eoin Rooney, 'Integrating Human Rights? Socio-Economic Rights and Budget Analysis' (2010) (3) *European human rights law review* 266-279

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

Aoife Nolan, 'Economic and Social Rights, Budgets and the Convention on the Rights of the Child' (2013) 21 (2) *The International Journal of Children's Rights* 248-277

Aoife Nolan and Mira Dutschke, 'Article 2(1) ICESCR and States Parties' Obligations: Whither the Budget?' (2010) (3) *European human rights law review* 280-289

R O'Connell Working Paper Human Rights Based Budget Analysis and Devolved Government in Northern Ireland  
[www.ssrn.com/author=495253](http://www.ssrn.com/author=495253)

R O'Connell Working Paper Overview of Budget Analysis and Human Rights Work [www.ssrn.com/author=495253](http://www.ssrn.com/author=495253)





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