

2021

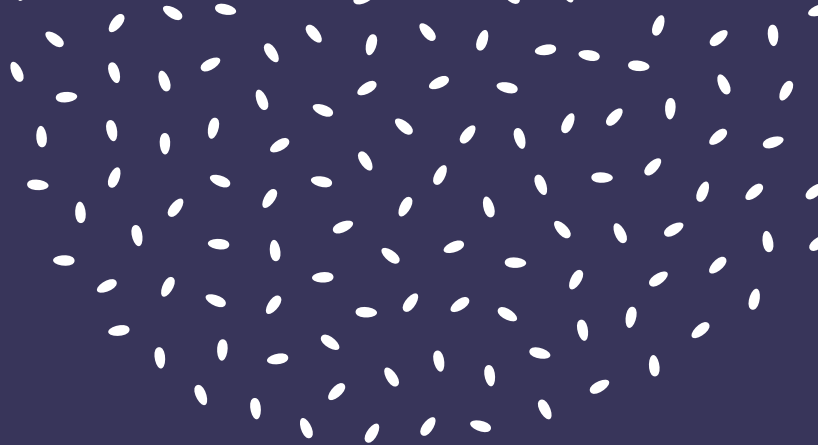
ANNUAL Report



The Global Initiative
for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



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Message from **Chair of the Board**

Two years into the COVID pandemic, human rights advocates across the world are pressing for a transformation in the rules and assumptions that make up our economic and political systems. The Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is leading the way, partnering with grassroots communities and organizations to demand an end to extractive and exclusionary frameworks that have failed to halt the climate crisis, stop the devastation of the COVID pandemic, and promise little to the many communities without access to clean water, quality education, or safe housing. GI-ESCR stands firm with movements calling for a just transition, advancing a collective vision of justice, and creating tools needed to chart a new path toward a sustainable, equitable world. Insisting that the future is public, GI-ESCR's talented staff—under the dynamic leadership of Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona—have built coalitions, forged key principles, and filed strategic litigation, all aimed at making real the promise of human rights for all.

Prof. Margaret
Satterthwaite



Message from Executive Director



Dear friends,

Welcome to our annual report for 2021. This report covers a very turbulent year. In 2021, we witnessed how health systems and economies were thrown into crisis, highlighting profound shortcomings in public financing, institutional capacity, global economic resilience, and care systems. The COVID-19 pandemic concealed older crises, with deeper roots: the climate and environmental crises, extreme and growing inequality, and failure to regulate the powers of private companies. All were areas in which GI-ESCR and partners have focused in 2021.

In the face of powerful regressive forces, in 2021 there were also important victories. This report highlights what we achieved. Our impact could be felt in several ways: in shifting narratives about the role of the State in the provision of economic, social and cultural rights-related services (e.g. health, education and social protection); in building a cross-constituency movement demanding a recovery that invests in public services and in a green energy transition, that is rights-based and responsive to the needs of disadvantaged groups and women.

In the report, you will learn about concrete cases where our work with partners is leading to change at the global and local levels and how GI-ESCR has helped forge alliances in support of a just and gender-sensitive transition to renewable energy. You will read about the Manifesto for Public Services which 200 organisations around the world have endorsed and have been advocating for. You will also hear how women's voices from an indigenous community in Mexico were brought to the attention of

international human rights mechanisms to seek accountability for violations of rights reportedly committed by two States and the company implementing a mega project in their territories.

Our impact could also be felt in the process to develop a new Constitution in Chile which has the potential to reverse decades of neoliberal policies. We have built strong national, regional and international alliances with civil society organisations; developed tools and analyses; and co-created a digital platform that enables individuals, movements, and civil society organisations to participate actively in Chile's constitutional process.

The achievements made in 2021 would not have been possible without the support of partners, the generosity of donors, the guidance of our Board of Directors, and, crucially, our hard-working team. I personally continue to be inspired by the commitment and passion of colleagues and partners around the world and the courage and resilience of human rights defenders.

As we look ahead to a future that is sure to bring new opportunities and new challenges, we remain committed to working together towards a more equitable recovery from the pandemic and more effective solutions to the problems of inequality, poverty, authoritarianism and environmental decline.

In solidarity,

Magdalena
Sepúlveda Carmona

Who we are

Vision

A world in which every person and community lives in dignity and in harmony with nature.

Mission

To transform power relations to enable every person and community to enjoy their ESC rights and all other human rights now and in the future.

Values

We believe human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and inalienable, and that they are shaped by law and social relations. They are norms and, more importantly, shared values. Their ultimate purposes are to remove asymmetries of power between individuals in society, challenge oppression, end the subordination and marginalisation of groups and individuals, and promote individual agency, autonomy and respect for the inherent dignity of every human being.

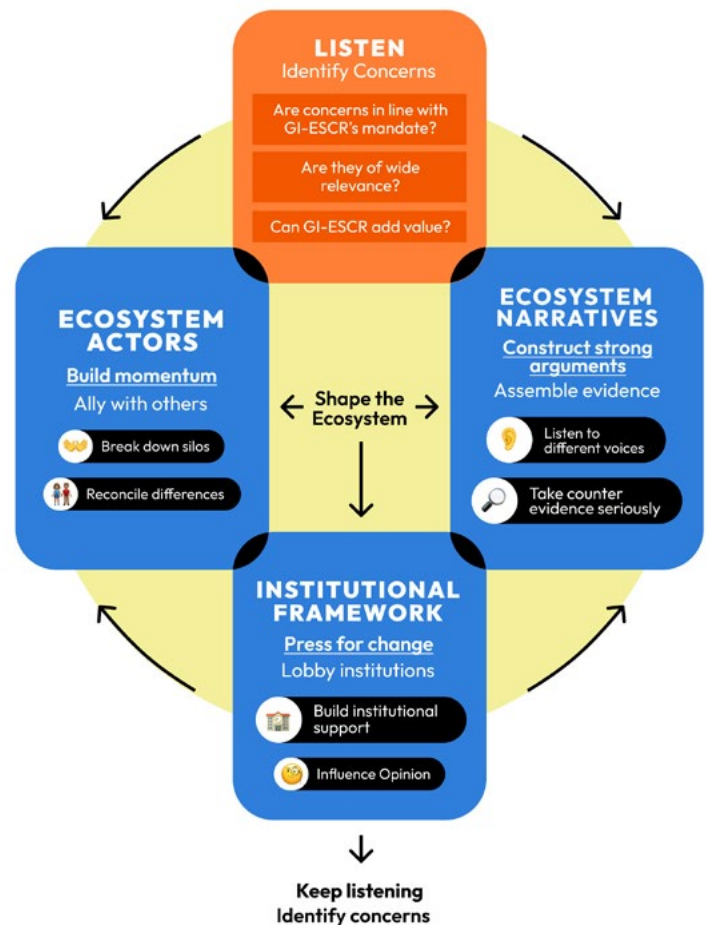
Methodology

We are agile, constantly looking for innovative ways to advance social and economic justice, gender equality and human dignity. We reach out to people and engage with their diversity, values and experiences, as far as possible in their own languages. We see our work as a cycle, an upward spiral of iterative and cumulative change in which local and global actions influence and benefit each other.

Our [theory of change](#) focuses on our capacity to shape the larger ecosystem that determines decision making. GI-ESCR identifies concerns and issues that fall within our mandate and tools that add value.

We work on these issues by, on one hand, assembling evidence and arguments that lead to new narratives with power to rally social and political majorities, and, on the other, ally with other organisations to build coalitions that have enough momentum to advocate successfully. Transformative narratives together with broad social coalitions have the power to strengthen the institutional human-rights framework, influence public and institutional attitudes, and change thinking.

Theory of Change



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www.gi-escr.org

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Our publications

GI-ESCR has released a considerable number of publications over 2021. These publications include reports, briefing papers, parallel reports and submissions to human rights monitoring bodies, updates of the work of UN treaty bodies, and contributions to academic books and journals. Our publications are high quality products, and they translate complex information into accessible formats.

GI-ESCR publications have shaped debates on human rights and public policies. They also support civil society organisations as they are tools they can use to act.



7

Reports



7

Briefing papers



7

Contributions by GI-ESCR to academic books and journals



7

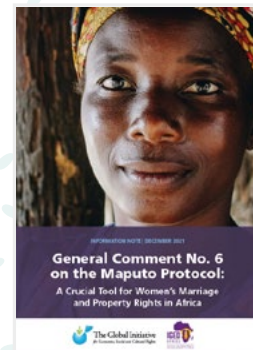
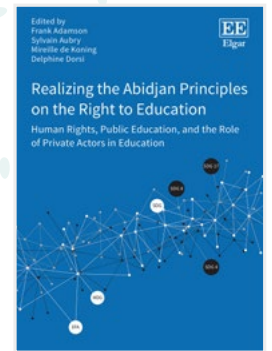
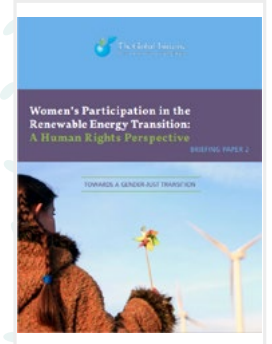
Updates and information about the work of UN treaty monitoring bodies



21

Parallel reports and submissions to human rights monitoring bodies

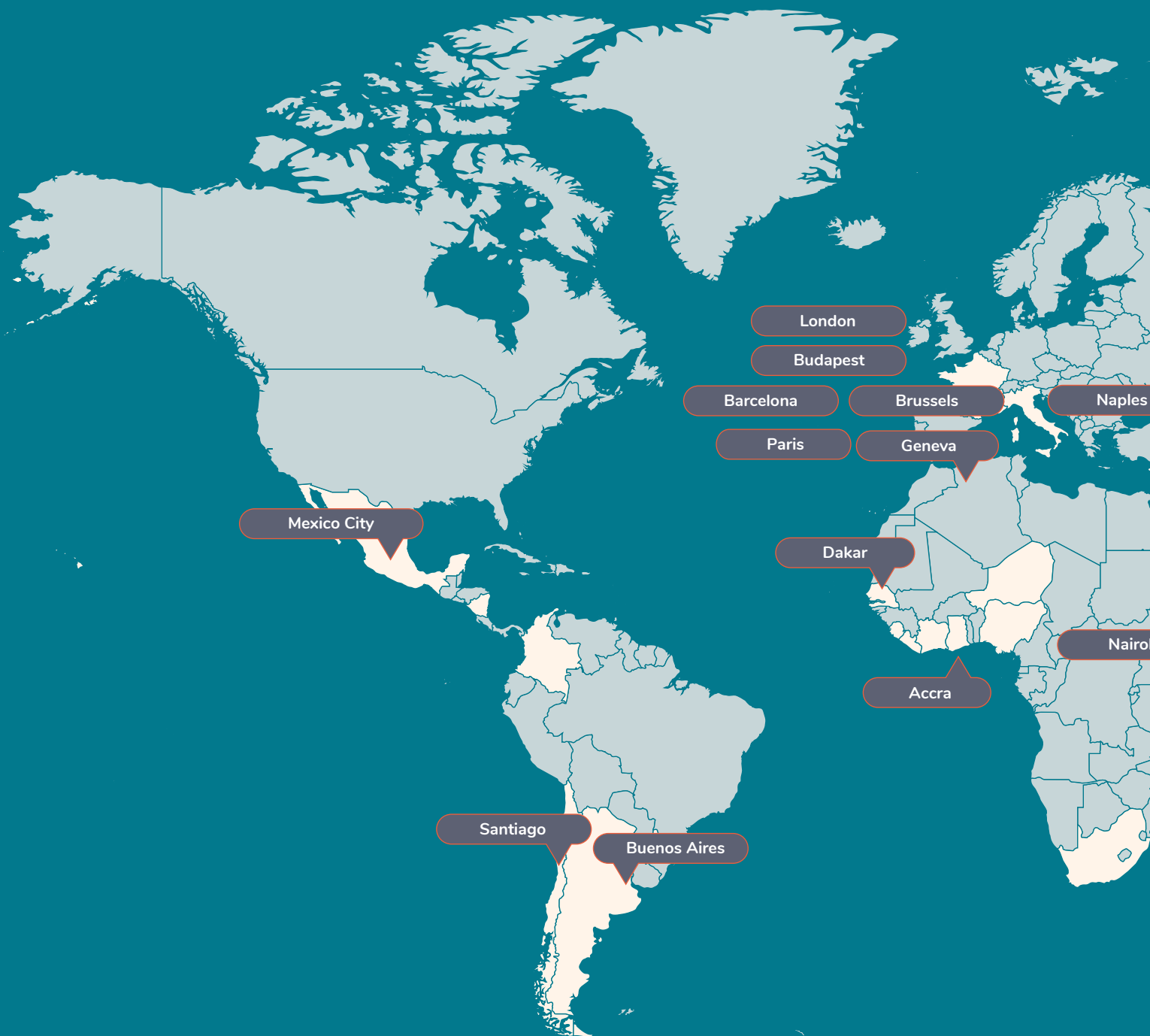
See all [publications released in 2021](#) on our website



Where we work

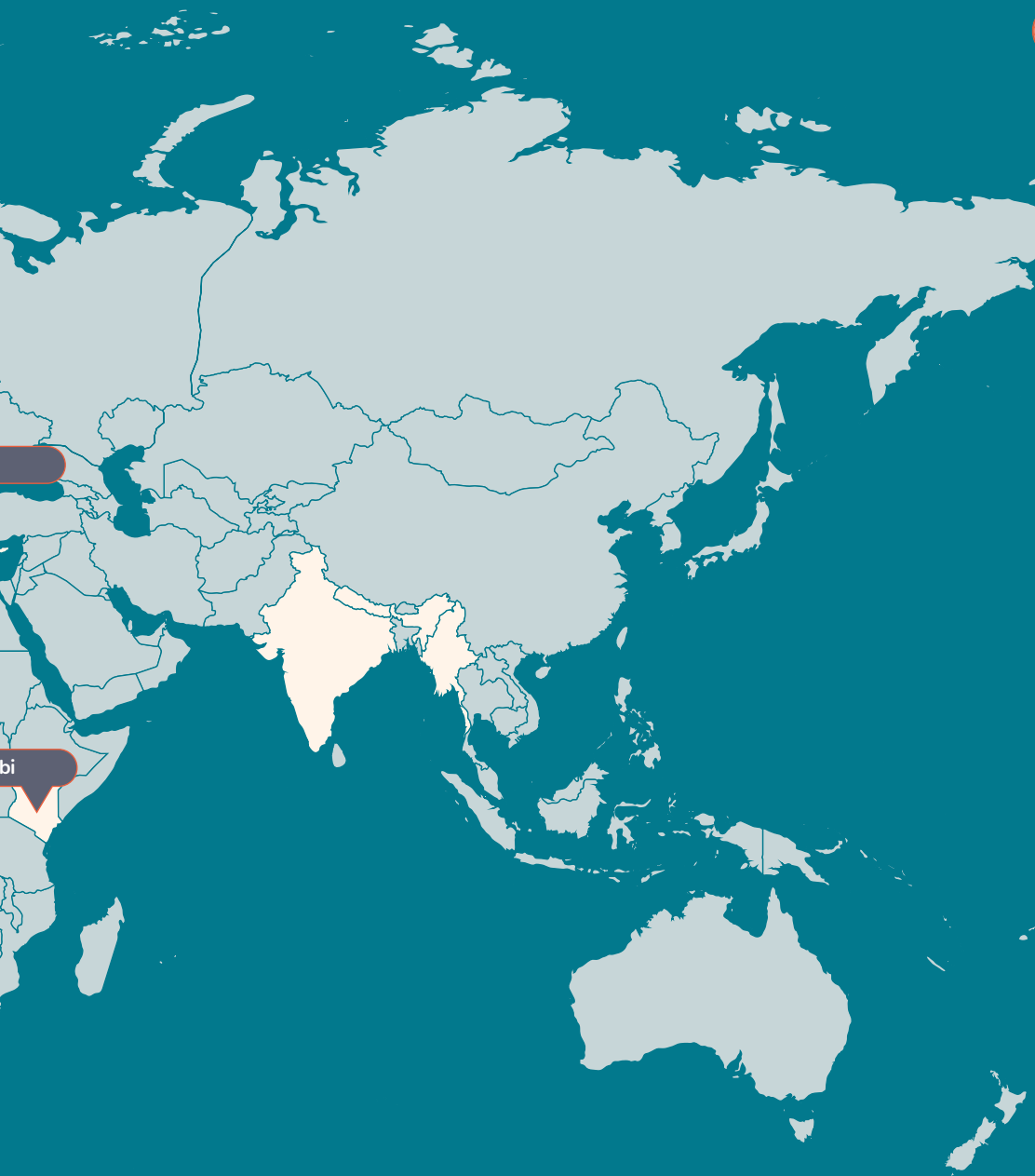
GI-ESCR has a presence in Accra, Barcelona, Basel, Brussels, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Geneva, London, Mexico City, Nairobi, Naples, Paris and Santiago de Chile.

This dispersed structure enables us to be closer to the ground in several regions and to connect with different economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights struggles and institutions across the world.



Thanks to its presence in Geneva, where it is also the only NGO working exhaustively on ESC rights, GI-ESCR plays a unique role in the promotion and protection of ESC rights at the international level.

We facilitate engagement with the human rights mechanisms, to ensure that their work is informed by the perspectives of movements, organizations and defenders on the ground and to maximise opportunities to use those bodies as levers for national level change.



In 2021 we worked in:

- ▼ Chile
- ▼ Italy
- ▼ Nigeria
- ▼ Kenya
- ▼ Côte d'Ivoire
- ▼ Senegal
- ▼ Liberia
- ▼ Sierra Leone
- ▼ Ghana
- ▼ Nepal
- ▼ Niger
- ▼ Mexico
- ▼ France
- ▼ Guatemala
- ▼ Yemen
- ▼ Nepal
- ▼ India
- ▼ Kenya
- ▼ Myanmar
- ▼ Argentina
- ▼ South Africa

Achievements

in numbers

Media Coverage

5 ACROSS **31**
languages countries

130
MEDIA MENTIONS IN

78
media outlets



CNN USA,
CNN Chile,
TVU (Chile),
Bío Bío
TV (Chile),
Channel
13 (Chile),
Channel 11
(Mexico)



Radio
Universidad
de Chile (Chile),
Cooperativa
(Chile),
Súbela (Chile),
Radio Énfasis
(Chile)

Events



70

35
organized

35
organized

REACH



805,100

REACH



+1 million

REACH



45,886 8 videos

REACH



+1 million

REACH

in

+31,5%



Testimonials

To understand how the organization's role in research, articulation and advocacy achieves change, it is useful to look at real stories, where GI-ESCR's wager on partnerships, high working standards and versatility have become critical to reach transformative collective accomplishments.

“ APRIL 2021

The collaboration with GI-ESCR has allowed ProDesc to approach the issues related to wind energy projects from a more comprehensive and holistic viewpoint, allowing us to better identify the interdependence (and also the extent of the impacts) among the human rights involved. We have also been able to learn about and identify standards/sources of reference on state obligations on gender issues.

— **Guillermo Torres,**
Senior Lawyer, [ProDESC](#).

“ DECEMBER 2021

We have learnt a lot from the collaboration with GI-ESCR and it has further boosted our confidence to work with women in the community for their betterment.

— **Kala Timalsina,**
Chairperson, Women Network for Energy and Environment (WoNEE).

“ DECEMBER 2021

The briefing paper published by GI-ESCR on [Renewable Energy and Gender Justice](#) provides excellent information that can be used by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights when States are reviewed in the reporting process and real concerns can then be integrated into the Committee's Concluding Observations. This type of collaboration is greatly needed.

— **Heisoo Shin,**
Expert member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

“ DECEMBER 2021

The [Más que Juanitas](#) project came at a fundamental moment of Chile's constitutional process. It is as well, a particularly important input for the future as archive material and source of analysis of how the process is taking place from civil society engagement's point of view. It is already a great contribution to make visible the organizations that have been working on ESCR and gender in Chile.

— **Valentina Salas,**
Human Rights Center Fellow at the University of Minnesota Law school.

In the media

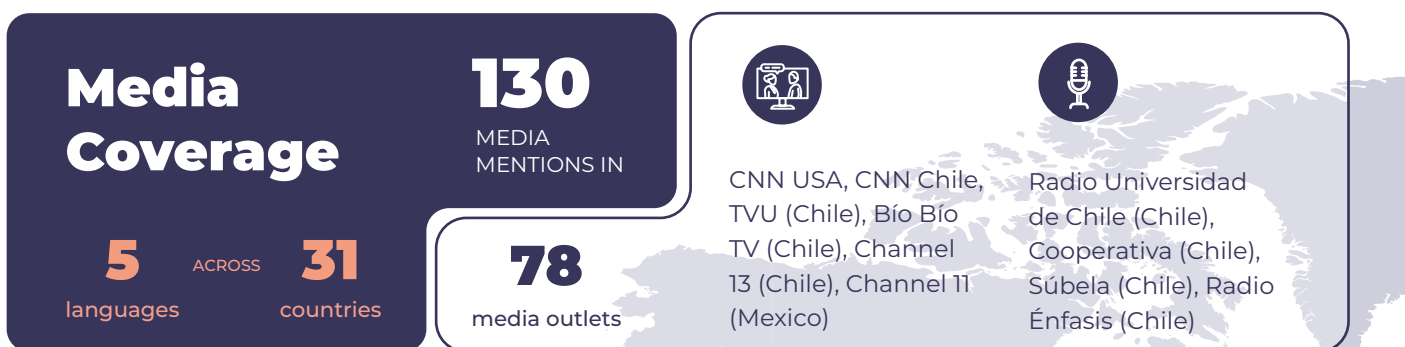
Changing the narrative on economic, social and cultural rights

Building a collective narrative and increasing mobilisation are at once consecutive steps and interdependent objectives. We raise awareness to build a collective narrative that can drive mobilisation with partners and of course, is based on human rights. We continue to seek to:

▼ Debunk myths about social and environmental injustice and asymmetries of power, and the roles of public and corporate actors.

▼ Showcase alternative approaches that demonstrate another way is possible (and needed).

▼ Start from the perspectives and experiences of rights holders.



LATIN AMERICA

- ▼ **Argentina**
 - Gaceta Mercantil (1)
 - El Cohete a la Luna (1)
 - Página 12 (2)
- ▼ **Brazil**
 - Poder 360 (3)
- ▼ **Colombia**
 - Las 2 orillas (3)
 - El Tiempo (1)
- ▼ **Chile**
 - Bío Bío TV (1)
 - Channel 13 (1)
 - CNN Chile (1)
 - Diario Constitucional (2)
 - El Desconcierto (1)
 - El Mostrador (14)
 - La Tercera (7)
 - La Prensa (1)
 - Publímometro (1)
 - Que Pasa (1)
 - Radio Universidad de Chile (1)
 - Radio Cooperativa (1)
- Radio Enfasis (1)
- Radio UdeC (1)
- Súbela Radio (1)
- The Clinic (1)
- TVU (1)
- ▼ **Dominican Republic**
 - Acento (3)
- ▼ **Ecuador**
 - El Universo (2)
- ▼ **Mexico**
 - Channel 11 TV (1)
 - Animal Político (1)
 - DesInformémonos (1)
 - El Economista (1)
 - Mexico Social (2)
 - Proceso (2)
- ▼ **Panama**
 - La Prensa (1)
- ▼ **Peru**
 - Ojo Público (2)
- ▼ **Uruguay**
 - La Diaria (2)

US

- ▼ **United States**
 - CNN (1)
 - The Daily Beast (1)
 - Common Dreams (2)

EUROPE

- ▼ **Belgium**
 - La Libre Belgique (1)
 - Le Soir (1)
- ▼ **France**
 - Le Club de Mediapart (2)
 - Les Nouvelles News (1)
 - Terra Femina (1)
- ▼ **Italy**
 - Altreconomia (2)
 - Avvenire (1)
 - Il Manifesto (1)
 - In Genere (1)
- ▼ **Portugal**
 - O Jornal Económico (1)
- ▼ **Spain**
 - EFE (1)
 - El País (2)
 - La Vanguardia (1)
- ▼ **Switzerland**
 - Le Temps (2)
 - Swiss Info (1)



Television: Mexico Social (Mexico)

Mario Luis Fuentes interviewed our ED Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona for TV show at Channel 11 in Mexico.



En Chile, los derechos sociales “están totalmente desprotegidos”

CNN reported the launch of our book: Constitutional Essays, a tool to assist in the drafting of the new Constitution in Chile.



Rich countries must stop blocking the COVID vaccine patent waiver

Access to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics is part of the human right to health.



Tax Justice Is Not a Technical Battle, It Is a Crucial Tool to Advance Human Rights

It is painful that the rulers of the rich countries have once again failed to address the magnitude of the crises we are going through.



Do You Want a More Caring—and Feminist Society? Tax Better!

Women are the first to pay the price for decades of budget cuts and privatization of essential services.



When the market becomes deadly

How pressures towards privatisation of health and long-term care put Europe on a poor footing for a pandemic



Stories of impact

GI-ESCR has provided vital technical support and achieved ground-breaking outcomes that are respected within and beyond the human rights community. We are increasingly recognised as a leader in economic, social and cultural rights advocacy and litigation.

Illustrations of impact can be found throughout the annual report. Here we list significant examples that demonstrate how GI-ESCR's work with its partners is making a difference in people's lives.

Manifesto for Public Services

Working alongside other members of the Public Services Facilitation Group, for which it acted as secretariat, GI-ESCR played a leading role in developing the 'Global Manifesto for Public Services'. This landmark initiative calls for a new approach to public services that will address current crises and build more sustainable, socially just and resilient economies and societies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed starkly the consequences of decades of privatisation and commercialisation of services essential for human dignity. The Manifesto offers detailed alternatives to a neoliberal model that has failed to protect human rights and provide a dignified life for all. It argues that public services are the foundation of fair and just societies and underpin a social pact that depends on core values of solidarity, equality and human dignity. It advances ten principles for universal and excellent public services for the 21st century and outlines how they can be funded.

The Manifesto was developed through a participatory, collective process that brought together actors from across civil society, academic and a range of social movements. It provides a unified vision, making joint work possible, and addresses questions, such as the role of the State and the scope of services, that had hindered collective action. Within a few weeks of its launch on 25 October 2021 the Manifesto had been endorsed by 199 organisations and it is now available in 7 languages. It will remain open for signature throughout 2022 and is an unprecedented platform for collective action that enables a broader range of actors than ever before to scale up their action in the coming months and years. Public Services International and GI-ESCR have already used the Manifesto to develop a proposal on public services for Chile's constitutional process.

In November 2021, we convened Enough is enough II: The Future is Public. This event brought together nine human rights representatives to reflect on the crucial role of public services during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and transition to a more sustainable and resilient economy and society. The panel discussion was watched by over 500 participants from across the world.



Indigenous women of Unión Hidalgo *take their grievances to UN Special Rapporteurs*

With ProDESC, a Mexican civil society organisation, GI-ESCR helped identify the gender impact of a large wind park built in the Zapotecan indigenous community of Unión Hidalgo, in the windswept Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico. We organised a dialogue with women human rights defenders in the community at which they analysed the disproportionate impacts on women's rights of the project. Their experience reflects a trend. Global energy transition programmes tend to privilege land and capital-intensive renewable energy projects that do not share their benefits with local communities and shift most of the social and environmental costs onto the local community.

We presented the women's analysis in a communication to United Nations Special Rapporteurs. Four Rapporteurs subsequently addressed allegation letters to Electricité de France, the French company developing the Gunaa Sicarú project, and to the States of Mexico and France. The letters requested the States and the company to uphold their human rights obligations to the Zapotecan community. They were signed by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples' rights, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

The fact that four Special Rapporteurs addressed this case had impacts at several levels. (1) It indicated the relevance and urgency of the human rights abuses committed during development of the Gunaa Sicarú wind park. (2) It made recipients of the letters accountable and supported litigation, currently proceeding in France, to demand that the company respect the rights of the community of Unión Hidalgo. (3) It assisted UN Special Rapporteurs to build their capacity to address issues of climate change and just transition and develop standards that should inform the energy transition activities of public and private actors. (4) It raised public awareness that human rights provide valuable guidance during the global transition to a low carbon world. (5) Finally and critically, it supported and recognised the women and the community of Unión Hidalgo.

GI-ESCR's working relationship with ProDESC and local communities opened new research and advocacy perspectives. We are currently sharing the experiences of the women of Unión Hidalgo in several further advocacy spaces as well as with UN human rights mechanisms and other actors.



Promoting a participatory constitutional reform in Chile

GI-ESCR has become a key player in Chile's social and political ecosystem. Recognised for its expertise on economic, social and cultural rights and its support for a participatory constitutional reform process, GI-ESCR constantly engages with unions and social organisations, NGOs and members of the constitutional convention. To take advantage of the unique opportunity in Chile and to meet the commitments we have made, we reinforced the Chile team in 2021 and developed specific tools for promoting public participation, including [Distrito Global](#) and [La Constitución es Nuestra](#), digital platforms for information and collaboration.

Chile is at a unique moment in its history. For the first time, all its inhabitants are entitled to democratically participate in elaborating a new Constitution that distributes power fairly and guarantees the rights of all. Together with partners, GI-ESCR is working to ensure the broadest possible participation in this process. To date, more than fifty civil society organisations are involved in [La Constitución es Nuestra](#) ('It's Our Constitution'), a platform in which they can present their constitutional demands, articulate human rights concerns, make links with peer organisations, and develop advocacy strategies to influence the Constitutional Convention.

GI-ESCR has also facilitated local, national and international fora that connect Chilean discussions with international debates on economic justice and inequality and encourage two-way exchange on Chile's experiences and other rights-based approaches to economic and social policymaking.

We have opened channels of communication and discussion that have helped move Chile's constitutional debate forward. These include local-international dialogues, for example with international alliances working on the Principles for Human Rights in Fiscal Policy, and on the Abidjan Principles on Human Rights Obligations of States to Provide Public Education and to Regulate Private Involvement in Education, and other international events and conferences.

Our work in Chile has been widely disseminated in national and international media. Since we launched our constitutional programme in Chile, more than fifty media outlets, including national television channels and radio stations, have reported on our work ●

“ 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Fantastic resources and thanks for coordinating the meeting with the Committee. GI-ESCR's work in supporting, monitoring and reporting on the work of the CESCR is so important for those of us who would otherwise not be able to keep up with what is happening in Geneva. Thanks so much for all of your hard work on this front!

— **Bruce Porter,**
Social Rights Advocacy
Centre, email

“ 19 JANUARY 2021

When we first met the Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in 2016, the Abidjan Principles were a fledgling idea in development. They were an aspiration for what we collectively, as a community, wanted to see in the world to protect students and educators from predatory for-profit, poor education quality, and growing education inequity for marginalized learners. Today, several years after their adoption, the Abidjan Principles are being used in incredibly practical ways that meaningfully impact learners' educational experiences in innumerable ways -- from lawsuits protecting investment in public education, to collaborations with national governments to improve national education sector review plans, to pushing the World Bank and others to invest in education systems more equitably and responsibly. The result of this investment of time, collaboration, and leadership of GI-ESCR and others is that learners' rights are better protected and upheld, ensuring that learners' education and future potential is not limited by the profitability of a business model.

— **Stephanie Gasior,**
Program Officer, International Children's Education,
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, email

“ 24 MARCH 2021

In my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the support provided to the work of the Committee by the Global Initiative on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR). [...] The continued engagement of GI-ESCR in these new circumstances [COVID-19] has been extremely valuable. In addition to support for the country specific work, the outreach and coordination for interventions on the opening day, and very importantly, all the work in preparing, coordination and organising the Annual NGO Meeting. Your support and engagement was greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing the important annual engagement with civil society stakeholders. Without the relentless engagement of many NGOs globally, often in difficult circumstances, our work would not resonate in the same way.

In addition to the support during the Session [...] you have done so much to promote the work of the Committee and raise awareness of the Covenant and the Protocol more generally. The Yearbook of the Committee, the session updates and the very important resources regarding individual communications are all extremely welcome and useful.

— **Renato Zerbini Ribeiro Leão,**
Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, letter to GI-ESCR



Reversing *the commercialisation of public services*

We work to reverse the harmful effects of commercialising public services such as education, healthcare, water, sanitation and social protection. We monitor the impacts of privatisation and commercialisation on these services, expose abuses when they occur, demand that those responsible are held accountable, and promote alternative arrangements aligned with human rights.

The COVID-19 pandemic spot-lit the contribution of public services to realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights. They are critical in many sectors. During 2021, GI-ESCR documented and reported the impacts of privatisation and commercialisation on public services, contributed to public debates, and advanced solutions.

In Côte d'Ivoire, after we published [a report on privatisation and commercialisation](#) with the Mouvement Ivoirien des Droits de l'Homme ('Human Rights Movement of Ivory Coast'), the Minister of Education announced that the government would conduct an annual assessment of private schools. On the eve of the report's launch, a [Ministerial Executive Instrument](#) prohibited the sale of

school manuals and learning materials in school premises.

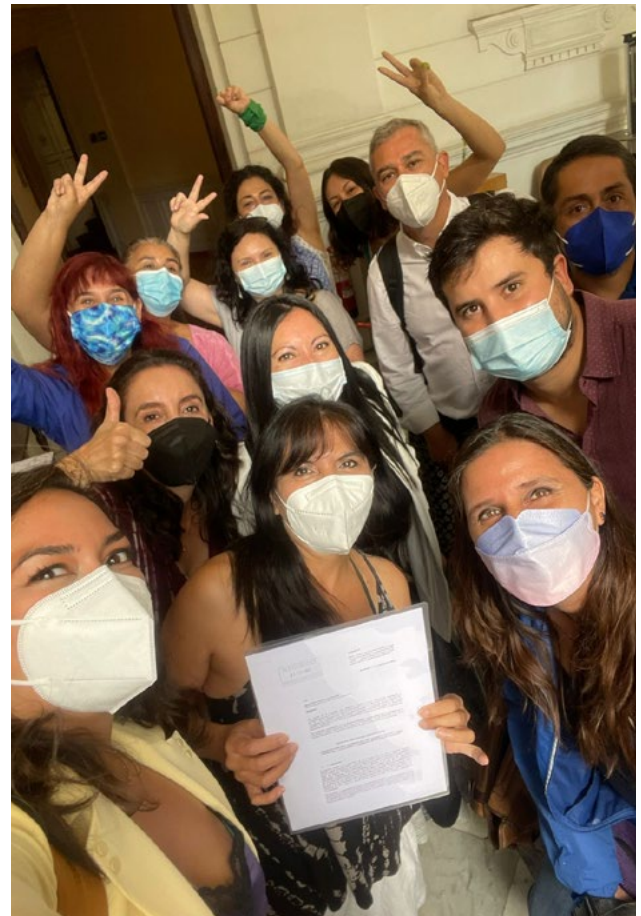
In December, the Ministry of Education of Senegal [announced](#) a similar review after COSYDEP, a Senegalese education coalition, published, with GI-ESCR support, a report on the private education sector. The National Employers' Council also announced that it would investigate private secondary, vocational and higher education in Senegal.

As described below, our work has helped to reveal the limitations of marketised models in delivering economic, social and cultural rights and identified alternatives to commercialised public services.

Cross-sectoral public services

GI-ESCR has actively contributed to building a global network of actors that oppose commercialisation and mobilise for public alternatives. We are one of nine civil society organisations that help coordinate a large and growing informal public services consortium. In November, we jointly organised [Enough is Enough II: The Future is Public](#). The event brought together nine UN special procedures and regional human rights officials to reflect on the crucial role of public services in building a more sustainable, inclusive, socially just and resilient economy and society. More than five hundred people joined the discussion. With regional partners, we also organised seven regional workshops (in five languages), and a global civil society workshop, on public services. These events connected national, regional and global efforts to promote public services, and supported a growing cross-sectoral, cross-regional movement.

GI-ESCR has made progress in strengthening the normative human rights framework on public services. At the UN, we participated in consultations for the [UN Human Rights Council's biannual resolution on economic, social and cultural rights](#). Adopted in March 2021, the resolution recognised for the first time that underinvestment in public services is a major challenge to realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. This



represents an important step towards recognition that provision of public services is a human rights obligation.

We worked closely with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, including on privatisation. During 2021, GI-ESCR was among the drafters of the African's Commission's General Comment on public services that will address privatisation and commodification of ESC rights-related services and may be a landmark text in this area. The draft is currently being reviewed by the Commission, and we hope it will be adopted in 2022.

In February, in conjunction with the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, we organised and hosted [three workshops](#) on the relationship between human rights and the commons. The series established a dialogue between leading figures from the commons and human rights which will be vital to efforts to reconceptualise public services. It will be important to advance inspiring alternatives to market models, build a strong interdisciplinary movement, and mobilise collectively to confront the powerful interests and institutions that drive commercialisation of services relevant to ESC rights.

Education

Increasing awareness of and implementing the Abidjan Principles

In 2021, GI-ESCR continued to support efforts to ensure that the Abidjan Principles on the right to education, adopted in 2019, are widely recognised and integrated in national education plans. As a member of the Secretariat, GI-ESCR played a leading role in their development.

In June, advocacy efforts led by GI-ESCR helped to ensure that the UN Human Rights Council recognised the Abidjan Principles in a resolution on the right to education. The resolution called on UN agencies to provide technical assistance, in association with the Global Partnership for Education and civil society, to help States realise the right to education during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognising that education has been severely impacted by the pandemic and containment measures, GI-ESCR and partners produced a range of materials to raise awareness of the Abidjan Principles and show that they can help learners and others to claim back their right to education. In November, we launched 'Education is ours' a [landmark animated video](#) narrated by Kenyan actress Sarah Hassan which has already been viewed more than 88,000 times. It tells the stories of three children in Kenya, the USA, and Chile, who face typical difficulties in accessing quality education. The video is accompanied by practical tools that summarise key elements of the Abidjan Principles.

GI-ESCR's work has helped to mobilise national support. The Alliance Globale pour l'Education et le Développement (AGEDE, 'Niger Global Alliance for Education and Development') and the Syndicat National des Agents de la Formation et de l'Enseignement du Niger (SYNAFEN, 'Niger Teachers' Union') invited GI-ESCR to take part in [their Abidjan Principles awareness campaign](#) in June. In countries such as Nepal, Sierra Leone and Kenya, we have worked with national partners to persuade governments to integrate the Abidjan Principles in national laws, policies and practice.

With partners in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, we assessed how far national laws, policies and practice align with the Abidjan Principles. GI-ESCR also worked with partners to present the Abidjan Principles to judges on the African continent, including more than thirty High Court judges in South Africa and Lesotho.

Alternatives to commercialised education

GI-ESCR has made progress in developing alternatives to commercial education. '[Public education works: lessons from five case-studies in low- and middle-income countries](#)', a study developed with partners, shows that well-organised and effective public education systems currently operate in many contexts, including in low-income countries. That it has helped to build a positive discourse on education was demonstrated at the World Bank's annual civil society policy forum on 'Getting all children back into better schools: The essential role of public education in the COVID-19 era'.





Health

GI-ESCR clarified the risks of commercialised healthcare and made a human rights analysis of its effects

In June, we published '[Italy's experience during COVID-19 and the limitations of privatised health care](#)'. This Policy Brief was widely disseminated and discussed. It was mentioned in *Altreconomia* (an Italian magazine); in June, an editorial that GI-ESCR drafted, based on the Brief, made the front page of *Il Manifesto* (an Italian national newspaper); and a related blog (in English, Italian and Spanish) was Editor's Pick on the website Open Global Rights and published in French on the blog Mediapart.

GI-ESCR was actively involved in establishing the Consortium Against the Commercialisation of Healthcare, an informal network of organisations that coordinates analysis and responses to commercialised healthcare. The group facilitated a critical civil society response to a report by the World Health Organisation that appeared to promote commercialised and privatised healthcare. It has established contact with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and is coordinating research on commercial healthcare.



Water

GI-ESCR has pursued opportunities to strengthen the regulation of private provision of water services. We continue to collaborate closely with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to water and sanitation and to draw attention to the growing financialisation of water. On World Water Day, we moderated a discussion 'Speaking about the elephant in the room - Human rights under the pressures of speculative strategies', which the Special Rapporteur convened.

With partners, we influenced the [Guidelines on the Right to Water in Africa](#), adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in April 2021. These strictly limit the delegation of water services to private actors and challenge a trend, notably to outsource water services to multinational corporations, that has been observed in many African countries.

In April, GI-ESCR made a submission on water commodification to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to water and sanitation. We advanced legal arguments for saying that the commercialisation and commodification of water is incompatible with recognition of water as a human right, and argued that water should be recognised as a public service in human rights law ●





Addressing the environmental breakdown

and ensuring a gender-just transition

We highlight the serious threat posed by climate change to economic, social and cultural rights and demand that States take ambitious action to address climate change through green transition plans that respect, protect and fulfil human rights, especially the rights of women.

Moving towards a low-carbon and sustainable economic system has become one of the most important global challenges of our time. However, it is crucial to ensure that the transition to sustainability also transforms our social, political, and economic systems so that they respect human rights and ensure equality, particularly gender equality, and distribute global resources fairly. GI-ESCR has a [longstanding record](#) of advocating for the respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights in the climate crisis. What does a feminist green transition look like and how can human rights guide all stakeholders towards a low carbon world? These

questions lead our work on a gender just green transition. They have led us to explore interconnections associated with the transition, and find bold solutions and standards that have the potential to shift our societies away from our present unsustainable status quo.

Green transition with a gender perspective

GI-ESCR's research has shown that the transition to renewable energy can negatively impact women's human rights, but also that energy policies can adopt a gender-sensitive approach. ['Re-](#)

[newable Energy and Gender Justice](#), a briefing paper, revealed that decentralised and community-managed energy solutions can empower women to enter the climate debate. It has influenced key documents such as UN Women's '[Beyond COVID-19: a Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice](#)' (see below). To widen its impact, in 2021 we [translated the briefing paper into Spanish](#) and presented it to over a dozen Latin American organisations that now use it as an advocacy tool.

We worked with civil society organisations and studied the participation of women in renewable energy policies. This research was published in the report '[Women's Participation in the Energy Transition](#)', which will be shared with experts at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66).

Promoting a gender-just transition perspective in international fora

In 2021 GI-ESCR expanded its reach beyond traditional human rights bodies by engaging with international fora that still lack a strong human rights and climate perspective. At the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women Forum, we co-hosted an event on promoting [gender justice](#) during the transition to renewable energies. We organised two panels at the Global South Women's Forum on feminist visions of environmental justice. At the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, we deepened our involvement with an online campaign promoting women's participation in the energy transition. During COP26, we also launched '[Portraits of a Feminist Energy Transition](#)', an audio-visual series on women in energy, and convened an online panel to launch [Energía renovable y justicia de género](#) ('Renewable Energy and Gender Justice'), with other civil society organisations.

Drawing human rights to the attention of renewable energy actors

We have continued to press for a gender-just energy transition in UN human rights mechanisms and other human rights fora. During the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, we organised a side event on renewable energy and women's participation and presented an oral statement. These inputs, together with important insights from partners working on local contexts, became the backbone of '[Women's Participation in the Energy Transition: A human rights perspective](#)', our second briefing paper.

Working with partners, we also examined the human rights implications of Mexico's energy policies in recent years. Co-sponsored by 27 national civil society organisations, [Derechos Humanos para una transición energética justa](#) ('Human rights for a just energy transition') makes concise recommendations on how Mexico's energy transition can adopt a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach. Based on the report, we and our partners highlighted the human rights and gender impacts of the Mexican Government's energy policy in an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Subsequently, we have played a key role in bringing forward the case of the community of Unión Hidalgo in Mexico, which has been affected by a massive wind-farm project. As described in the Stories of Impacts section, UN special procedures recognised the case we made and sent letters of allegation addressed to the States of Mexico and France, as well as the energy company developing the project, which highlighted the human rights obligations of States and energy businesses to protect the rights of indigenous women and girls.

Developing progressive standards for gender-just transition

In the course of working with civil society organisations to strengthen our collective voices, GI-ESCR contributed to new narratives. We contributed to two amicus curiae to the European Court of Human Rights. In the case of *Klimaseniorinnen e.V. v. Switzerland* ([Application No. 53600/20](#)), we highlighted the impact of the climate crisis on elderly women and fleshed out the meaning of 'progressive realisation' in this context. In *Cláudia Duarte Agostinho and Others v. Portugal and 32 Others* ([Application No. 39371/20](#)), we stressed the impact of the climate crisis on enjoyment of a healthy environment and related economic, social and cultural rights as well as the right to life, and its disproportionate impact on the human rights of women and girls.

In addition, also in collaboration with key partners, we launched the [Gender and Energy Compact](#) at the High-Level Dialogue on Energy, involving governments, private sector actors, finance organisations, intergovernmental agencies, academics, and civil society and youth organisations.

Shaping narratives and projects on gender-just transition

GI-ESCR's collective analysis and key messages have influenced how others approach their work on renewable low-carbon energy and gender justice. As described in the section on [Women's ESC rights](#), our insights were quoted in UN Women's '[Beyond COVID-19: a Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice](#)'. This landmark publication affirmed our key message that it is necessary to move away from highly centralised, male-dominated corporate models to more egalitarian forms of control over energy management and consumption.

Together with Observatorio Ciudadano and ProDESC, GI-ESCR submitted a joint written paper on the impact of the energy transition on the rights of indigenous women and girls. Its analysis, and some of its main concerns and recommendations, were reflected in the first [draft of a General Recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls](#) issued by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The Committee acknowledged that "States should also take measures to ensure indigenous women and girls' access to clean and renewable energy". This is an important stepping stone towards the development of human rights standards that support a gender-just transition to low carbon economies ●



Advancing women's

economic, social and cultural rights and gender equality

We aim to transform social norms, power structures and the roots of inequality and discrimination by placing substantive gender equality at the heart of our advocacy to achieve economic, social and environmental justice.

Adopting an intersectional gender focus

In 2021, GI-ESCR adopted a strategic intersectional gender focus across its programmatic priorities. Below are some examples of our efforts to mainstream gender.

A gender-just transition to a low carbon world

GI-ESCR consistently encouraged the international human rights system to address the climate emergency. In 2021 we expanded our campaign to reduce greenhouse gases and combat the climate breakdown by asking what a feminist transition to low carbon societies would look like. By researching gender and renewable energy and creating spaces in which activists and women's rights groups could share their concerns and experiences, we helped human rights mechanisms to address decarbonisation and local civil society actors to adopt an intersectional gender lens in their advocacy on climate and energy justice.

GI-ESCR's analysis of a gender-just transition, promoted in briefing papers and at key events, has influenced how other actors

approach decarbonisation. During 2021 we spoke to key audiences, including government officials, civil society, media, and academic organisations. We contributed to '[Beyond COVID-19: a Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice](#)', an influential publication by UN Women that has helped States to design post-COVID-19 recovery plans. We were invited to present our work at the 2021 Generation Equality Forum, which kickstarted a 5-year journey to accelerate ambitious action on global gender equality. Working across silos, we both strengthened existing partnerships and built new coalitions of partners to share stories of hope and solidarity from women and community activists advocating for a gender-just transition.

Feminist alternatives to the commercialisation of public services

Several of our activities in 2021 clarified the gender implications of commercialising public services and advanced discussion of feminist alternatives that might transform uneven power relations and advance gender equality.

We joined the core group of progressive feminists and human rights organisations that launched [Manifesto: Rebuilding the Social Organisation of Care](#). This initiative has deepened the understanding of [care as a human rights issue](#), declaring care is a public common good, and calling on States to provide public care services as a means to achieve substantive gender equality. Together with partners, we produced advocacy tools to raise awareness of structural gender inequalities and the uneven care burden that impedes women from enjoying all their rights.

In March, GI-ESCR published '[From Gender-Responsive to Gender-Transformative Public Services](#)'. This policy brief argues that public services can transform asymmetrical power relationships between genders. Supported by our work on care, it has informed other initiatives, including the approach we took to gender in the collective civil society statement '[The Future is Public: Global Manifesto for Public Services](#)'. This document challenges power imbalances and advances ten principles for public services in the 21st century. It mainstreams gender equality throughout. (See the Stories of Impact section.)

Engagement with key international women's rights and gender equality mechanisms and fora

GI-ESCR has experience of working with and influencing UN mechanisms and fora, and bringing women into debates and decision-making. We have become key conveners of policy actors in the women's human rights field, helping to shape how international human rights mechanisms understand and interpret the demands and concerns of women and girls. In 2021, we organised side events at the Human Rights Council and the Global South Women's Forum on Sustainable Development, at which community organisations discussed their efforts to advance gender equality in decarbonising energy systems. These events broadened the scope of women's rights issues addressed by UN human rights mechanisms and informed them about women's local struggles and concerns. They also allowed women from the Global South to share their experiences, strategise, and explore their visions of a feminist transition to a low carbon world.

We pushed the frontiers of the women's economic, social and cultural rights framework by submitting written contributions and parallel reports to UN treaty monitoring bodies. Several of our contributions have been taken up by treaty bodies, including the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Local partners are actively using this information in their advocacy.

Women's rights to land and other productive resources

With key local partners, GI-ESCR worked for many years to extend and strengthen women's rights to land and other productive resources and encouraged the adoption of regional and global human rights standards on these issues.

GI-ESCR and partners supported the African Commission on Human and People's Rights to develop a General Comment on the Maputo Protocol, which was adopted in 2020. General Comment No. 6 sets out women's property rights in the context of divorce, separation and annulment of marriage and consolidates progress in moving from development to implementation of international standards for women across the African region, a key step in ending economic and social injustice on the continent. In 2021,

together with the African Commission and regional partners, we organised a [workshop on women's equal property rights](#) for more than forty women's rights experts, activists, and community representatives from Africa and Asia. The event assisted civil society organisations to develop advocacy tools and strategies, share lessons learned, and identify ways to combat structural discrimination against women in and out of marriage.

We also published an [Information Note](#) on General Comment No. 6.

Realising women's rights in Chile's constitutional process

For Chileans, "Mrs. Juanita" is a familiar stereotype, which denies the diversity and autonomy of women in Chile and reduces the relations between men and women to a simple binary. Recognising that it is vital to address the experiences and needs of women in Chile's constitutional debate, GI-ESCR launched '[Más que Juanitas](#)' to explore the relationship between gender, constitutional reform, and endemic social and economic injustices in Chile.

The project gathered the empirical experiences of women and feminist organisations across the country, underpinned their testimony with standards and norms, and produced recommendations to Chile's Constitutional Assembly. In the process, it created a digital archive that will make available to future generations the written reflections, videos, pictures, and interviews that women's rights organisations, grassroots movements and trade unions contributed.

To amplify women's demands, GI-ESCR and *El Mostrador Braga*, a local media outlet, disseminated some of the testimonies. Further material will be published in 2022.

Fiscal justice to achieve gender justice

Since 2020, GI-ESCR has added fiscal policy to its work on public services and the green transition. In 2021, building on the work of our Executive Director, who pioneered gender approaches to fiscal policy and who currently sits on the Independent Commission for the Reform of Corporate Taxation ([ICRICT](#)), GI-ESCR took steps to mainstream gender in economic and fiscal policy debates. At key international fora, we are taking action to shift the narrative on fiscal policy and advance alternatives that can help to realise economic, social and cultural rights and gender equality.

We have also connected with a broad audience through our op-eds linking women's rights and fiscal policies. Op-eds that we published on International Women's Day and Human Rights Day appeared in 42 social media outlets in 38 countries around the world. This work enables GI-ESCR to step beyond traditional human rights spaces and influence debate at many more levels, from communities to senior decisionmakers. Our work on fiscal policy has produced new knowledge and alternative ideas on fiscal justice, and helped to challenge dominant narratives and tackle gender, economic and environmental injustice ●



Strengthening ESC rights frameworks, institutions and accountability

We work for strong and effective economic, social, and cultural rights legal frameworks and accountability mechanisms, that can respond to contemporary economic, social and cultural rights injustices. We support national and local rights advocates who leverage the human rights system to realise social, economic and climate justice.

12 statements at the Human Rights Council

3 submissions to United Nations Special procedures

1 submission to the United Nations Secretary-General

4 updates on sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

3 side events organised with members of Treaty Monitoring Bodies

1 yearbook on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

3 submissions to United Nations Treaty Monitoring Bodies

Influencing the work of UN human rights bodies

We used our expertise in economic, social and cultural rights to influence debates and consultation processes and have been recognised as key stakeholders in economic social and cultural rights conversations. As a result, our contributions have appeared in official publications and the documents of several mechanisms, and we have been invited to join expert conversations.

In 2021 we continued our efforts to ensure that international standards are interpreted in ways that consider the demands of local groups and communities. We contributed to the development of two new general comments by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on sustainable development and on land and ESC rights, and to a General Recommendation on indigenous women and girls by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. We helped to coordinate civil society contributions to the treaty

bodies by organising roundtables. The Committees picked up some of the recommendations in our submissions. Through this work, we helped to shape and focus the interpretation of human right standards.

We ensured that women's experiences of the green transition were heard in UN fora. We convened side events during sessions of the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women and at the Gender Equality Forums. These meetings underlined that woman must participate in the renewable energy transition to ensure that their human rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

During the Human Rights Council's 46th session, we were heavily involved in consultations on, and drafting of, the bi-annual resolution on ESC rights. For the first time, the resolution acknowledged the central contribution of public services to the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights, opening the way to recognising that their provision is a human rights obligation. At the annual discussion on the rights of the child, we pressed States to accept that public services are vital to realisation of children's human rights.

Alongside other civil society organisations, GI-ESCR has actively argued that there is a strong link between the climate crisis, the green transition, and human rights. We advocated energetically for the appointment of a UN special rapporteur on human rights and climate change, approved during the Human Rights Council's 48th session. In addition, GI-ESCR and a broad coalition of NGOs (active on the environment, human rights, indigenous rights, women's rights, and children's rights) pressed for global recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

Throughout the year we worked closely with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, with whom we co-hosted a workshop series on the commons and human rights. The series brought together experts in human rights and the commons to explore shared interests. This emerging relationship could make an important contribution to efforts to develop alternatives to both privatised and traditional State-centred models for providing goods and services essential to the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.

Working with regional human rights mechanisms

Regional human rights mechanisms shape understanding of human rights. To achieve our objectives, it is therefore essential to engage with them.

For several years, GI-ESCR has built ties with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. This investment is now yielding results in the form of new standards. In 2021, GI-ESCR provided technical expertise as part of a small group of experts that contributed to the development of an initial draft of a General Comment by the African Commission on States' obligations with regard to social services. The text is currently being reviewed by the African Commission and we hope it will be adopted in 2022. GI-ESCR also actively encouraged the adoption of Guidelines on the Right to Water in Africa, which contain key concepts advanced in the Abidjan principles, constraining the commercialisation of water.

Having supported the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' development and adoption of General Comment

No. 6 on article 7(d) of the Maputo Protocol in 2020, which addresses the right to property during separation, divorce or annulment, we teamed up with the Commission and regional partners in a workshop on women's equal property rights in which more than 40 women's rights experts, activists, and community representatives from Africa and Asia took part. We also developed an information note for civil society on how to use the General Comment (See the section [Advancing women's economic, social and cultural rights and gender equality](#)).

This year, we strengthened our work with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In particular, the IACHR's Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights participated in several of our activities. In December, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights endorsed the [Abidjan Principles](#) in the '[Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy](#)', following a submission by GI-ESCR during consultations. The Special Rapporteur had previously [recognised](#) that, for the Inter-American system, the Abidjan Principles are a 'valuable specialised source of interpretation' of State obligations on the right to education.

In Europe, together with partners, we developed two amici curiae before the European Court of Human Rights on cases related to the climate crisis: *Klimaseniorinnen e.V. v. Switzerland and Cláudia Duarte Agostinho and Others v. Portugal* and 32 other cases. We stressed the impacts of the climate crisis on the enjoyment of a healthy environment and related economic, social, and cultural rights. (See the section [Addressing the environmental breakdown and ensuring a gender-just transition](#).)

Supporting civil society engagement with UN human rights monitoring bodies

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for civil society organisations to engage with international processes. With partners, we therefore pressed the UN human rights system to adapt its procedures to encourage and facilitate participation. As a member of the NGO Network on UN Treaty Bodies (TB-Net), we advocated for restoring in-person Treaty Body meetings at the Human Rights Council.

Making the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights visible and accessible

We continued to publish GI-ESCR's widely consulted 'Yearbook on the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights'. In addition, we established two new resources: a webpage on [CESCR's jurisprudence](#), and [a guide on the individual communication process](#). Both aim to make it easier for civil society to engage with the Committee and make use of its decisions and recommendations.

In 2021, we continued to facilitate access to the Committee. Despite COVID-19, we successfully organised a virtual annual civil society meeting with the Committee. This event offers civil society actors and committee members a unique opportunity to discuss CESCR's work and economic, social and cultural rights concerns ●



Chile's Constitutional Process

We identify opportunities at the domestic level to support legal advocacy and empower local actors, to promote economic, social and cultural rights' recognition, monitoring and accountability. In Chile, we push for a rights respecting, gender inclusive and post-neoliberal agenda in the constitutional process.

665k people reached through social media

350 participants in activities organised by GI-ESCR

75 partnerships with national and international civil society organisations

72 national and international experts actively contributed to our activities

26 women rights and feminist organisations articulated under a common purpose

7 webinars on economic, social and cultural rights

5 policy papers on how to promote ESC rights in the new Constitution

2 in-person workshops on ESC rights

1 broad coalition of unions and civil society actors behind a common constitutional proposal

Advocating for international economic, social and cultural rights standards in the Constitution

In October 2019, a social uprising led to the first democratic constitutional drafting process in Chile, a country shaped by a dictatorship inspired by neoliberalism. The Constitutional Convention established in 2021 offered the ideal opportunity to develop and apply a progressive conception of economic, social and cultural rights, including standards on gender equality, public services and fiscal policy.

Before the Constitutional Convention was inaugurated, GI-ESCR was already working with partners to provide expertise on international economic, social and cultural rights standards, acting as a bridge for organisations and academics abroad who want to contribute to Chile's reform process. We pushed stakeholders involved in the constitutional debate to affirm the widest possible protection of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights and adopt a post-neoliberal framework that promotes social and economic policies respectful of human rights.

Together with partners, we also connected the discussion in Chile with regional and international debates on economic justice and inequality. Since the constitutional process is taking place in a period when global inequality has reached alarming levels and climate change threatens social and economic breakdown, we encouraged an exchange of experiences. Creative and forward-thinking standard-setting and rights-based approaches to economic and social policy can open the door to new ways of realising economic, social and cultural rights in practice.

We have played a critical role in creating and strengthening civil society's capacity to understand and address economic, social and cultural rights, given that no specialised organisation in Chile was working on the whole range of rights and economic issues. Our expertise and work have been recognised, and GI-ESCR has emerged as a legitimate actor in the NGO ecosystem in Chile that is active in the constitutional process on socioeconomic rights. In 2021 we strengthened our presence in Chile to meet the expectations and commitments of our partners.

We have continued to develop tools to promote the inclusion of progressive standards on economic, social and cultural rights in the new Constitution. For example, our report [Compromiso por el Habitar en Dignidad](#) ('Commitment to Live in Dignity'), which a range of national organisations have endorsed, lays out principles and standards that should guide the incorporation of the right to housing in the new Constitution. Our reports have been widely distributed by political and social movements, disseminated on social media, discussed in national media, and delivered to members of the Constitutional Assembly.

Empowering local organisations' advocacy agenda

One of the Constitutional Convention's main challenges has been to meet society's desire to participate and be included. Recognising that participatory fora were lacking, with Fundación Ciudadanía Inteligente and other local partners we designed, developed and launched [La Constitución es Nuestra](#) ('It's Our Constitution'), a digital platform that links civil society and the Constitutional Convention by creating and supporting constitutional proposals. Over fifty civil society organisations joined the platform and have been able to highlight their demands. [La](#)

[Constitución es Nuestra](#) has made an important contribution to democratising Chile's constitutional reform process.

'Más que Juanitas'

Concerned that the Constitutional Convention might not be able to translate women's longstanding demands for rights into norms, we brought together 26 feminist organisations from across the country to share their experiences and demands for economic, social and cultural rights.

We examined those demands in [Más que Juanitas](#) (see Stories of Impacts section). This report makes specific recommendations on how the new Constitution might incorporate women's demands. Launched in the presence of civil society organisations, members of the Constitutional Convention and academics, it is a go-to resource on issues the new Constitution must address to promote gender equality and protect women's economic, social and cultural rights. Drawing on past contributions and other contributions we will continue to receive, we have created a [digital archive](#) that substantiates the experience of women's unequal access to economic, social, cultural and environmental rights in Chile.

Connecting national and global economic, social and cultural rights debates

GI-ESCR has also connected discussions in Chile with international debates on economic justice and inequality. We developed local-international dialogue spaces. For example, we convened debates between Chilean actors and the alliances that promote and advocate for the Principles for Human Rights in Fiscal Policy, and for the Abidjan Principles on Human Rights Obligations of States to Provide Public Education and to Regulate Private Involvement in Education. To bring Chilean issues to the attention of women organising for economic justice, we actively participated in international fora, such as the International Association for Feminist Economics.

Together with academic partners, we brought together the reflections of more than fifty domestic and international scholars, practitioners and policy makers in the book '[Social Rights and the Constitutional Moment: Learning from Chile and International Experiences](#)' (Bloomsbury). This collection of 32 essays has proved to be a useful tool for members of the Constitutional Convention and those who want to influence its work.

Public services and fiscal policy

GI-ESCR has facilitated cross-movement alliances of progressive actors to advance the public services and tax justice agenda in the context of constitutional reform. In doing so, we have made links with Public Service International and key national trade unions to challenge the neoliberal paradigm of privatised, underfinanced and market-driven public services reliant on lean fiscal policies that do not comply with human rights standards.

Together with this broad coalition of unions and civil society actors, we developed a constitutional proposal that establishes progressive and innovative standards for public services and fiscal policy in Chile's new Constitution. The proposal has been introduced as a public norm initiative (a direct democracy mechanism within the Convention) and has been shared with members of the Constitutional Convention ●



Partnerships *and networks*

Relationships and partnerships are at the core of GI-ESCR's internal strategy. By cultivating solidarity and equitable partnerships, we promote collaboration and initiatives to establish and realise human rights that are grounded in diverse perspectives.

During 2021, GI-ESCR continued to put itself in positions from which it can harness collective power and break down silos between disciplines. We collaborated with organisations, movements and groups to link grassroots actors and communities to global fora. We also connected with new constituencies and explored innovative strategies to build collective power to influence public opinion and change citizens' perceptions of rights and human rights organisations.

GI-ESCR played a leading role in a range of networks relevant to economic, social and cultural rights. For example:

▶ We helped establish informal networks to challenge the privatisation and commercialisation of services related to economic, social and cultural rights and mobilise for strong public alternatives. In this context, we coordinated a facilitation group, together with ActionAid, the East African Centre for Human Rights, the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights, Oxfam, Public Services International, the Society for International Development and the Transnational Institute, and worked collaboratively with about twenty organisations to develop

the '[Global Manifesto for Public Services](#)' which close to two hundred organisations signed within weeks of its launch (see Stories of Impact section).

We established a Consortium Against the Commercialisation of Healthcare, composed of the major organisations that work on the right to health at global, regional and national level, for which we run the Secretariat and play a coordinating role.

▶ We brought together organisations that work nationally, regionally and globally to unpack the climate, gender and energy nexus, and developed a collective analysis on the role of the renewable energy transition in advancing gender justice. The organisations involved are the Center for International Environmental Law, EmpowerMed, Energy and Resources Institute, Energy without Borders, Forum for the Future, Group for the Environment, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense, Next Energy Consumer, Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales (ProDesc), Renewable Energy and Solidarity (Geres) and Sustainable Development Foundation Yemen.

- ▼ We sought relationships with **trade unions** to empower social organisation and build sustainable support for common causes. In Chile we have partnered with Public Services International, an international organisation composed of over 700 unions, which has 350,000 members in Chile. We also work with the Association of Tax Inspectors of Chile (AFIICH), the National Association of Judiciary Employees (ANEJUD), the National Association of State Employees (ANEF), the National Association of Tax Service Officials (ANEIICH), the National Confederation of Municipal Officials of Chile (ASEMUCH), the National Confederation of Education Assistant Officials of Chile (CONFEMUCH), the National Confederation of Municipal Health Officials (CONFUSAM), the Confederation of University Professionals of Health Services (FENPRUSS), and the National Federation of Sanitary Workers (FENATRAOS). With them and other partners we proposed a ‘norm of popular consent’, a direct democracy mechanism in Chile’s Constitutional Convention.
- ▼ We partnered with **academic institutions** aligned to our goals. For example, the University of Geneva is providing support on research methodology to ten organisations from francophone Africa, building their capacity to monitor the privatisation of education. To enrich debate on the content of Chile’s new Constitution, the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex and the Environmental Law and Climate Change Programme of the University of Concepción (Chile) partnered with us to provide an international and comparative analysis of socio-economic and environmental rights.
- ▼ We have assisted **international organisations** and networks to support national advocacy efforts. For example, SUMMA (Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Education for Latin America and the Caribbean) and the Right to Education Initiative shared their international experience of efforts to guarantee the right to education with actors working on Chile’s new Constitution.
- ▼ Together with partners in Chile, we established the Red Ciudadana de Justicia Fiscal y Tributaria (‘Citizen Network of Fiscal and Tax Justice’) to promote progressive fiscal policies in Chile’s constitutional debates ●

GI-ESCR also participated actively in a wide range of networks, notably:

- ▼ ESCR-Net
 - ▼ As a member of the Steering Committee of the Strategic Litigation Working Group.
 - ▼ As a member of the Women and ESC Rights Working Group.
 - ▼ As a member of the Advisory Group of the Networkwide Project on Environment and ESCR.
 - ▼ As a member of the Economic Justice Working Group.
- ▼ Bringing Human Rights Home, as a member of the ESC Rights Working Group.
- ▼ The Extraterritorial Obligations Consortium, as a member of the Steering Committee.
- ▼ The Geneva Climate Change Consultation Group.
- ▼ Geneva Gender Network.
- ▼ The Group of Friends of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva.
- ▼ The NGO Network on the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies (TB-Net).
- ▼ The Privatisation in Education and Human Rights Consortium, as a member of the Facilitation Group.
- ▼ The Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors.
- ▼ Réseau francophone contre la marchandisation de l’éducation (‘Francophone Network against the Commercialisation of Education’).
- ▼ Comunidad de Organizaciones Solidarias (‘Community of Solidarity Organisations’) (Chile)
- ▼ Red Ciudadana para la Justicia Fiscal (‘Citizen Network for Tax Justice’) (Chile).
- ▼ Plataforma de empresas y derechos humanos (‘Business and human rights platform’) (Chile).
- ▼ Red para la participación (‘Participation Network’) (Chile).
- ▼ Elena Caffarena (feminist network, Chile).
- ▼ The Climate Justice Network (Mexico).

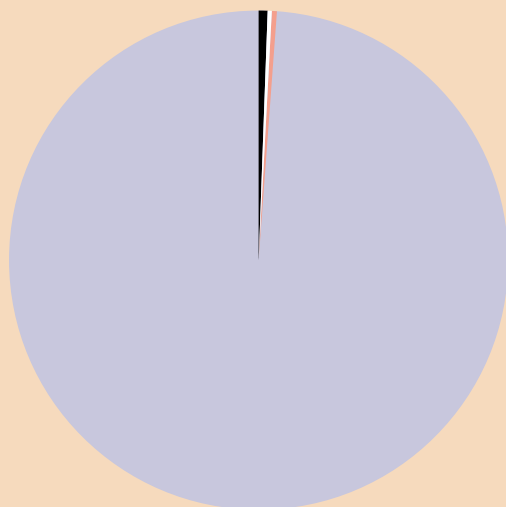
We wish to thank each and every partner, and every individual, group and organisation, with most of whom we will continue to work closely, for the road we have travelled and the achievements we have accomplished together.



Financial overview

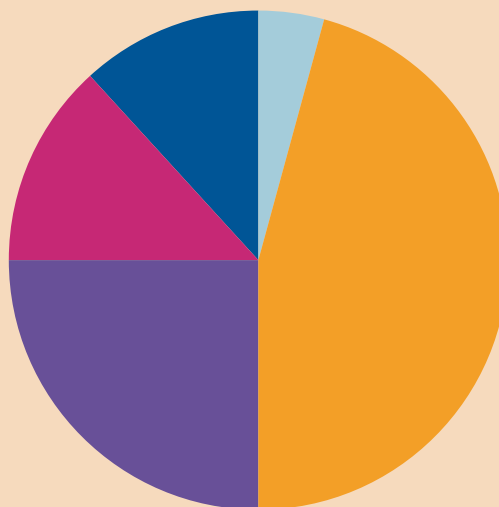
During the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, total revenue raised was \$1,265,471.

Income \$1,265,471



- ▼ Foundations: \$1,249,402 97.73%
- ▼ Individual contributions: \$3,427 0.27%
- ▼ In-kind contributions: \$12,362 0.98%
- ▼ Other: \$280 0.02%

Expenses \$846,777



- ▼ Environmental breakdown and just transitions \$90,350 11%
- ▼ Institutional frameworks \$135,697 16%
- ▼ Reverse the commercialisation of public services \$366,888 43%
- ▼ Operations \$213,385 25%
- ▼ Fundraising \$40,458 5%

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GI-ESCR is grateful to all its donors listed below, who have made it possible to carry out the work presented in this report.

Our financial information can be found at www.guidestar.org.

- ▼ Anonymous (General Support)
- ▼ Anonymous (Education)
- ▼ Wallace Global Fund
- ▼ Open Society Foundations
- ▼ Open Society Initiative for West Africa
- ▼ Open Society Policy Center
- ▼ Foundation to Promote Open Society
- ▼ Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Geneva Office
- ▼ International Commission of Jurists



Our people



Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona

Magdalena is a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation and of the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda. Magdalena served as the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (2008 to 2014). She also worked as Senior Research

Fellow at the Research Institute for Social Development (JUNRISD). From 2013 to 2017 she was a member of the High-Level Panel of Expert on Food Security and Nutrition. In 2015, she was recognized in the Global Tax 50, among the individuals with the biggest impact on taxation worldwide. She has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Co-Director of the Department of International Law of the UN-mandated University for Peace and Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy.

Magdalena holds a Ph.D. (Utrecht University) and LL.M (University of Essex).

In 2021, Magdalena was selected by the Open Society Fellowship Program's New Executives Fund, which provides key support to help organizations navigate leadership transitions.

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About GI-ESCR

The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) is an international non-governmental human rights organisation. Our vision is a world in which every person and community lives in dignity and in harmony with nature. In pursuit of that vision, our mission is to transform power relations to enable every person and community to enjoy their economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights and all other human rights now and in the future.

Donate

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation. We rely on donations to make our work possible. Donations are tax-deductible in many countries, including the United States. Learn more at www.gi-escr.org/donate

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