

This is a year in which we are seeing an economic down turn, we worry about our mortgage payments, we worry about the credit crunch, but there are many people around the world who are worrying about their next meal. What has happened is that our global economy has created a huge disparity and many people are being marginalized and left outside. That is an issue of economic and social rights, it is a human rights problem because it is a problem of equal rights, it is a problem of human dignity and those are issues that need to be given attention. Economic and social rights has been a second cousin to political and civil rights for far too long. Governments and international institutions need to look to see how to make these economic and social rights real, particularly at a time when the most vulnerable are feeling the crunch in the worst possible way.