



Head of Department

Office of the High Commissioner for
Human Rights
Rue Des Pâquis 52
1211 Geneva

Strasbourg, 10 January 2023

Subject: Call for inputs on promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

In response to the welcome invitation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Social Rights of the Council of Europe and Secretariat of the European Committee of Social Rights (the treaty body entrusted with monitoring under the European Social Charter) would underline the relevance of the European Social Charter and the work conducted under the Charter in respect of promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this connection, we would kindly draw your attention to the [European Social Charter](#) and to the Charter's relevance in [responding to the pandemic](#). We would point more specifically to the European Committee of Social Rights' [statement on Covid-19](#) and social rights and to the [statement of interpretation on the right to protection of health in times of pandemic](#).

Among other Council of Europe entities, the importance of the European Social Charter in this context has been highlighted by the Parliamentary Assembly in its [Recommendation 2205 \(2021\)](#) on "Overcoming the socio-economic crisis sparked by the Covid-19 pandemic" and related documents, and by the Secretary General in her [Strategic Framework](#) for the Organisation (see strategic priority 3 on "Fighting growing social inequalities and poverty").

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I would also draw your attention to the [Digest](#) of the case law of the European Committee of Social Rights and to the [HUDOC database](#) of the European Social Charter, resources that you may find useful when seeking to establish the concrete meaning of and benchmarks for promoting and protecting economic and social rights when addressing inequalities in the post-pandemic recovery process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Malinowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Jan Malinowski