

Also by Scott Leckie

Housing and Property Restitution: A Comparative Analysis (2003)

Legal Resource Guide on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2003)

We Shall Not Be Moved: Popular Resistance to Forced Evictions (2003)

When Push Comes to Shove: Forced Evictions and Human Rights (1995)

Destruction by Design: Housing Rights Violations in Tibet (1994)

From Housing Needs to Housing Rights (1992)

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Acknowledgements

The idea to write this book first arose almost a decade ago. The early 1990s was a time when great progress was made at the international level in support of housing rights. What was lacking at that time, as well as at present, however, was a more enriched understanding of the way international human rights norms play out at the national and local levels, and how and to what extent reliance on, or reference to, these will necessarily expand levels of enjoyment of housing rights.

As is increasingly evident, at least to those of us in the human rights community, economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights have finally started to get the attention they deserve. And yet, most of this progress has taken place at the international level and has too infrequently been transferred to the local and national levels. Where this has happened, however, major strides have often been made, even though these are commonly unknown outside of the countries where these victories for ESC rights are taking place. Indeed, this is a major motivation behind this book.

The future of ESC rights is clearly at the national level. It is hoped that this book will show that far more is happening locally, and far more can be done at this level, to protect and promote housing rights than is generally understood. Each of the authors who were kind enough to prepare chapters on the place of housing rights within their respective countries, are in their own ways pioneers in the worldwide struggle for both housing rights, and the broader issues associated with ESC rights. I am deeply grateful to all of them for taking the time and effort to prepare such an interesting mix of views on housing rights and how these affect each country, often in very different ways.

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