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UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON  
EXTREME POVERTY  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS



## Invitation

# **Unpaid care work and human rights: A different perspective on women's empowerment**

**Where:** Palais des Nations, Room XXI

**When:** Thursday, 12th June - 11:00 – 13:00

## Panellists

Philip Alston - UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty

Maria Virginia Bras Gomes - UN CESCR Member from Portugal

Ana Maria Suarez Franco - FIAN International

Sandra Vermuyten - Public Services International

Priti Darooka – PWESCR

*Moderator* : Rachel Moussié, ActionAid

In October last year the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty presented a report to the General Assembly highlighting the human rights violations resulting from women's and girls' unequal share of unpaid care work. Across the world women and girls are disproportionately responsible for unpaid care work including cooking, cleaning, taking care of children, the ill and elderly. This work reproduces the labour force and sustains our societies. In rural areas women's unpaid work in agriculture contributes to food security and protects natural resources which societies depend on. Women's labour contributes to the realisation of the right to food, healthcare and access to water for members of their households. Yet women's unpaid work in agriculture and in the home is not adequately recognised or valued in government policies.

In the context of poverty where women cannot pay for private services and lack access to quality public services such as piped water, basic healthcare facilities and childcare centres women and girls spend large amounts of time on unpaid care work. When agricultural and natural resource management policies do not support women's unpaid work, they continue to spend time and energy in arduous tasks with little support from the state. This comes at a great cost to women's human rights. The UN Special Rapporteur for Extreme Poverty and Human Rights will present the key findings from this report and we will hear from a diverse group of panellists from member states, trade unions, food security groups and women's rights organisations.