Right to Food Webinar 29-05-24

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You're listening to human rights 2020 is brought to you by the Human Rights consortium in Scotland. This episode is a recording of a webinar called our international human rights, the right to food held on the 28th of mi 2024. It features a conversation between consortium director Valerie Snowden, and Eden flake, a PhD student from the University of Glasgow, about the rate differed in Scotland. We hope you enjoyed this episode this afternoon. Welcome to this webinar, which is called our international human rights. And today we are looking at the right to foods. So welcome. There's people here from all different organisations and backgrounds. And we hope this is useful, really insight into what does the right foods mean? What's really like what might have been for Scotland. So we are absolutely delighted to be joined by Edith folk who is a PhD researcher at the University of Glasgow and but also an absolute expert in this area, and has had a Nuffield project in which the Parliament of your project which has looked and particularly at these economic and social rights, including the right to food, so Alright, so I'm in a sad welcome is brilliant to have you here. We're talking about a food which it feels like a right that should be relatively straightforward in a country as wealthy as the UK. And yet, it's really topical, we all know how much food banks have been used to put bones is going up and up. There are lots of families, particularly those large families who struggle to have enough food to eat and other issues around healthy and sustainable foods. So it's, it is actually a massive issue. And we're we're talking today, not just about general rates of foods, but we're talking about the international rates of foods.

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And that is part of various international agreements that the UK has signed up to, can you tell us a wee bit though we're just predecessor right to food come from internationally?

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Yeah, of course. I'm just first. Thanks, sir. Thanks for having me on, it's great to be able to come and discuss some of these issues. But um, yeah, as long as you stay there at the right to food is actually enshrined throughout a range of international human rights treaties. But the core one that we kind of derive the right from and view it through, it's called the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the ice Esker, as we call for shorts, and it's explicitly contained within the language of this treaty, article 11, which provides for the right to adequate standard of living.

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Really, article 11, you can think of as this umbrella, right? So it focuses on providing right to housing, clothing, water, but also the right to food, as we're discussing here today. And that's very explicit through the language of the treaty. It is, of course, also covered in other international treaties. So yes, the answer is kind of where we where we would go immediately to look for the right to food and international law, for example, you can look at things like article 27, of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, as well which provide, which provide the right to food through that lens of providing provision of rights to children. So

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really, the language of the treaty only gives so much understanding of what's expected in relation to the right. So it's also been commented on by a number of kind of international pieces of guidance, but also experts, UN Special Rapporteur, and so really, what the right international law is understood is providing is, or it's being met when every person alone or in community with others have physical and economic access all times adequate food, or means securement. And so it's really about this kind of idea of regular and permanent access, either through directly getting it for yourself or through functional systems

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to get to everyone within society equally. So that is a kind of broad basis of where we see the right in international law. But really to kind of dive into the depths of it you have to kind of also see that there's many other materials you can

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really helpful because

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it really helps in these international agreements so that ISIS skor and UN things are full of acronyms but I say skirt is where everyone's everyone has it, but it's also actually addresses in the UN CRC which is now part of Scots law leads directly and so children have

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that particular rates of food as well. And but then the the UN also at that international level actually spells out more about what means like you're saying there's there's a principle of access, there's it's got to be accessible to everyone. I know that there's also principles within that sort of accessibility, availability, and adequacy. So maybe we'll just look at each of those in turn. So on accessibility, then it's got to be accessible to everyone. Can you say a wee bit more about that?

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Yeah, absolutely. This is actually a really helpful way of breaking down the right to food. So often these international human rights, they can be very broad. And it's not always clear exactly what is expected to have a duty bear in this case of state. But, for example, in Scotland under this particular structure, really, we can think of the right to food through as accessibility, availability and the adequacy of food. But also, we can break these things down quite a bit further as well. So for example, accessibility and

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the physical, as well as the economic accessibility. And this is really important understanding of the overall accessibility, it's not just like that, how is it physically accessible, which might be, for example, in rural areas? Is it is it accessible to you to be able to go and get food, but it can also be a bike that economic accessibility as well. So also thinking about things like affordability, and others. And really, both of these lenses, we have to be able to understand accessibility? Availability, as you, as you discussed, is actually more to do with kind of repairs, being able to, you know, is food available within the state? That's almost the more simple requirements, if you like them, the overall accessibility is there kind of food production in place. And that might be, you know, in certain countries, of course, we're talking about the international right here. So in certain states, that might be the ability of the availability to feed oneself from their last example, without kind of unreasonable interference. And it may also be, but it might also be that kind of ideas, is there a food distribution system and kind of market systems in place that allow for it to be kind of put into shops that is then made accessible.

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And finally, as you raise the

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content of of adequately, and again, we can see this kind of broken down again, into three key aspects. So adequate food is a really broad term. So it helps when we break these things down to give direction in terms of what are we looking for under the right to food when we're talking about adequacy. And that must be that that can really be

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understood as things like dietary requirements, so it must reasonably satisfied dietary requirements.

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So we can think of many, many different aspects of those that exist, it means must be safe for consumption. So this is backed by toxicity levels of food. That's probably the most obvious when we're talking about adequacy. But another aspect of this culturally appropriate food in areas where food is in provides culturally adequate, and of course, again, we can have many different areas of cultures.

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That is really what we're talking about with the accessibility, availability and adequacy.

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And that's especially helpful. And actually, the more you think about it without actually some of that is quite challenging. So for example, culturally appropriate food I was being someone recently and are talking about the provision of Halal food and kosher foods in every school, and in schools where there may only be one pupil that needs it, but it's so got to be provided. That's what really kind of hits home almost.

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Yeah, yeah, absolutely. You know, you can begin to really understand how these rights are pervasive and really attached to, you know, even as you could say, all levels of decision making all the way up to the massive national strategies on how to deliver food. I think the key aspects here are, you know, the kind of reasonableness and the progressive nature that we're taking action on these issues. It's not to say that immediately everywhere in Scotland, that culturally appropriate food has to be, you know, satisfy the right, but it's certainly something that will be built into how decisions are being paid and how we're using our resources and how we're progressing right over time. So as you say that that one pupil in the school, you know, we would certainly want to be seeing that the fact that they're the cultural appropriateness of their food is being taken into account in that kind of wider decision making in the School of heights provides for his pupils. Yeah, that's that's usually helpful. building it into the decision making and at that rate, apply

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I say, everybody, then that's got to be taken into account. I think you mentioned there that there's, it's not gonna be an overnight thing, it's not this or send over it, it's got to be delivered immediately. But the is that core concepts of progressive realisation. So basically always improving, always taking steps in the right direction. Now, this came up, we had a webinar a couple of weeks ago looked at their whole Covenant on Economic, Social rights, and and they held into all the different principles within progressive realisation. But can you just tell us a little bit? What does it mean, to progressively realise that there's right to foods? What is what does that look like?

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Sure. And so, again, it's a it's a, it's a big question. And, you know, I would really encourage those that are on that webinar to go back and listen to the one that Professor Katy oil on international obligations, that she had the opportunity there to go into quite a bit more depth about how we break down progressive realisation. And here we want to focus more on the kind of write itself. So I'm gonna give a whistlestop tour, shall we say, a very brief introduction to some of these key concepts, but hopefully, it will allow us to understand what we mean by the right to food and this idea of progressively realising over time. So

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progressive realisation is kind of explicit within the within the sasco as the obligation that applies to all the rights. But over time, what we've understood is that progressive realisation is really a made up of a number of different duties, which all make up this kind of package of how we're to progressively realise, at its most basic sense, we can assess progressive realisation as our is the state taking steps, effectively and private as quickly as it possibly can be as quickly as it reasonably can be seen to do towards realising these rights. So taking steps, by policies in place, is it adopted legislation? Is it funding? Is it making sure that, you know, all the different elements that make up state decision making are really focused on on on improving this right over time, that there is some flexibility in there. And this is what progressive realisation allows for it was the understanding that the right to food is not going to be bad info for everyone immediately. And so progressive realisation was saying, well, we understand that, but we still want to see these specific kind of targeted steps being taken effectively, and resources being put in place to get that data affected those steps.

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Brilliant. So and that's a real challenge, actually, isn't it because we think, is Scotland as law and policy and practice and Scotland taking those steps, like proactively making it better in terms of the right to fit, we will come back to some of what that might look like. And but one of them is one of them talks about a minimum course or the baseline level? So minimum core obligations being something actually that has to be delivered immediately for everyone. And that's quite a challenge in terms of what does that minimum baseline level look like for the right to food?

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Yeah, so again, a really good point to pick up on and

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the minimum core obligations is this has been kind of interpreted into progressive realisation. And so it's not explicit in the language of the treaty itself. But what it basically means and it's a doctrine in international human rights, is that as you say,

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this were progressive realisation was viewed to be kind of overly flexible, and it didn't necessarily provide protection for those most marginalised, disadvantaged in our society. But actually, there needs to be this minimum baseline of the rights that without those aspects being in place, we can even view the start progressive realisation, if that makes sense. So it's really this minimum floor level of the right to foods that needs to be satisfied immediately by the state, instead of it being kind of progressed over time, depending on the resources that are available to do.

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It I might get,

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I might get told off by some of my kind of scholarly colleagues here, but I like to think like this as like a like a race. So it progressive realisation over time is US racing toward as a state towards the full

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experience of the right food, the full realisation of that right to food for everyone. Then the minimum core is that starting line where we started and

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Bass might be ensuring and so sorry, internationally, this has been defined as ensuring freedom from starvation. So it demonstrates really the minimal nature that the international human rights as being understood as but, of course, through Scotland's incorporation agenda and the legislation, there's a potential to build on this and kind of build a more full understanding of what minimum chords are great to put should mean, and so that might look at things like, again, do we have specific procedures policies in place are we is there, you know, excessive levels of food insecurity for different populations, food bank might become something like a bit of a core issue that you might want to look at, because it really is the charitable sector stepping in to stop people from not having access to food at a very basic level. So really, minimum poor Yeah, is is from my perspective, that starting point, and then progressive realisation is all the aspects that you're going to use all the things you're going to do through running that race to the finish.

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Like that. Yeah, and no one goes backwards from the starting line. And you've got to at least have that in place. And then that idea of always going forwards to the end goal as well, which is it was really helpful. And so, you know, I think that that baseline of protection from starvation seems really start extreme in a Scottish sense. And yet we know that there are people experiencing destitution in Scotland, and there's a massive use of food banks. So you mentioned there about, obviously, charity, charity sector, third sector is often the provider of food banks. But these international human rights are all about what the state's what governments have to do.

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Do you think is this is that sort of, there's a big gap, there isn't a terms of if we have the right foods, and yet people are relying on food banks enough in order to have enough to eat? Does that mean, the right to food is quite an odd kind of aspiration? Or what are some of the challenges in that?

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So I mean, put simply, no, it's it's not an aspiration, you know, certainly from the legal perspective, it's, it's not an aspirational bite, it is a right explicitly included within the International Covenant on Economic, Social cultural rights, which the UK has ratified, which basically means it's agreed to implement. So, you know, there are different ways of doing that. But

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as you see, there remains this what we call accountability gap, and that has really caused by UK Government also have not evolved over the last 20 years, despite action being more taken in the default areas of governments really failing to ratify the covenant, and ratify and implement these rights, as was expected anyway. So it's not an aspirational, right, from a legal perspective. But we can see that in terms of it being realised, and the manner in which is currently embedded with international society and within our laws, that it's understandable why people go, Oh, that sounds great, but it's still an aspiration. And so this is really where I think, you know, the incorporation becomes important, you know, this is why the, the conversation in Scotland is ongoing, this is why legislation is being proposed, because this idea of there being a capability gap, we cannot

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claim our rights in the same way that we can with others. So, often kind of food poverty and insecurity are viewed through the lenses of you know, those frameworks, but actually, when we you know, incorporate and we bring in the right to foods in the in the manner that's being suggested, it provides these legal obligations and builds in this this accountability mechanisms that we currently live within within the UK, but within Scotland.

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And there so the whole plan for the human rights bill in Scotland, as you mentioned, is to incorporate more of our international human rights into directly and Scots law. One of those is that I assess girls Covenant on Economic social cultural rights, and then within that, it will have their rights and adequate standard of living, which includes the right to food. So we will, when the human rights bill is introduced and passed and commenced, they will, we will have that right to foods as part of our own law, which means that will be enforceable, which means that public bodies will have to take into account in terms of how they make decisions. And going back to what you're saying before they'll be both requirements to take steps to progress that as well as to deliver those minimum so. So that's, that's quite exciting is that in terms of becoming an enforceable right to food that's about that accountability gap. You're talking about that

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Yeah, that's absolutely yeah. And, you know, I think that from certainly from the legal perspective, that's, you know, one of the core arguments around why we want incorporation of these rights into Scots law, because what we mean by an accountability gap is really, you know, despite these rights existing at that international level, and having been agreed by our, our national governments, you like that they're still it's still not being claimed through the courts. And there isn't that international court that we are even regional, for example, you know, the European Court, people might hear cases on issues. So we need to, yeah, incorporation is a bypass enforceability as we've used the word justiciability of the right.

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But also remembering is not just about that kind of enforceable for the courts. There's also non judicial measures that can be used in non traditional kind of complaints, mechanisms that can help people do to claim the right to food as well. And then that really requires this kind of whole system approach and the courts, and that enforceability through the courts might remain kind of last resort, if you like.

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I think the other part of this is yes, it's about making it enforceable and justiciable and the idea of effective remedies being in place and closing that capability gap. But

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you're limited in certain ways. We're the old nation and recent kind of Supreme Court decisions have also closed. So they have been used that used to previously exist there, which I'm not going to go into too much legal detail on. But I think what all of this points to is, it's about making the right enforceable, but it's also about that idea of right to food culture. It's also this idea that we want to be building these frameworks, the right into our decision making and our using rights based language, we're using these obligations to really direct resources. And you know, this, again, it's going to take time, you know, these are these are steps to be taken. So enforceability on one hand, yes, but also that culture change and wider implementation tools that are available to Scotland are reasons that we really want C Corp.

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Sooner or later, it really is about how, how decisions are made. It's about how you set priorities, it's about things like budgets, actually, and resource decisions as well. And but there is that complexity of what's the UK and was Scotland a little bit in terms of where the responsibility lies, certainly from a consortium point of view, as well as absolutely advocating for the human rights bill in Scotland, we need it is really important. And that's introduced, but I'm but we're also advocating a UK level that actually what would be best is that the, for example, the right to food or something that is across all law and policy that affects people in Scotland, whether it comes from London, or Hollywood or you know, is really, really important. Some of that, just to pick a little bit is because you can't almost take the road to food on its own.

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doesn't always make sense, because it's part of with other human rights and really relates to them. I don't have any kind of thoughts or comments around how it interrelates with other other human rights also.

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Yeah, yeah. And that's, that's a really great point to raise that that we haven't covered so far. And so this is, of course, about kind of interrelated nature of different rights, you know, of course, food is going to be important to other issues. So I think the core one that people would mostly relate to is things like health, food is going to make up a large part of whether we are healthy individuals. And so we really want to be viewing these rights as kind of reinforcing each other and how we claim them and things like that nutritional

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adequacy of of foods that we've discussed that that kind of poor piece of content there, that overall adequacy that might also be taken into account in terms of our overall right to health. But other areas could be for example, the right to healthy environment, you know, sustainability of food production, these are, you can view this as a right to food issue. Or you could view this as a healthy environment issue in terms of, you know, we don't really want our food production to be leading to toxic runoff. So chemicals in reverse, we don't want you know, the fact that we're using heavy amounts of fertiliser to lead to unsustainable soil degradation. You know, these are issues that you can view as the right food because it's about our food production systems, how we're going, how we're going back feeding ourselves, but these are also impacting on many areas of our society and many areas of our environment as well. So really, these these rates are all kind of interrelated and indivisible from one another. And that means that we can we can view these problems through different lenses of different rights.

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Really

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examples of just actually how practical this is, you know, is when you really think about applying and thinking it through sort of different lenses, like you're saying those environmental impacts and considerations, just around our food supplies and how we do food for everyone is really practical. And are there other examples? Do you think of what would change if that rate of food was really embedded into that decision making it into law and policy and practice in Scotland?

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So, I mean, that's a really broad question. I think that.

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Yeah, I mean, we can almost take any issue to do with food in Scotland. And we could look at what the right to food might say about that we could look at, you know, comparative approaches that have been taken elsewhere and understand more in depth about how the Right to Food should impact on different decision making processes and different outcomes as well throughout Scotland. But to take, you know, I mean, to take some real basic examples in the kind of brief time that we have here. Let's think more about that kind of minimum core aspect again, so what must we see, you know, what if the right food wasn't bedded? What might have changed that make through the minimum poor lens, things like food bank usage, but certainly be, from my perspective, a minimum core issue, because we're looking at that kind of the most basic elements of the right food are not in place, and people are having to rely on other institutions, such as charitable sector or civic sector tech, to fulfil their rights instead of the state doing so. So from my perspective, that really mean that, you know, we would wish to see direct and immediate action from the Scottish Government to rectify some of those some of the issues that exist there, certainly for those kind of most marginalised and disadvantaged or using food banks and, and really that kind of assessment required to be taking place. So yeah, the minimum core might become really useful problem there.

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Many, many other issues, I almost as I say, every kind of policy issue to do with foods can be viewed by progressive realisation. How are we funding programmes? How are we ensuring the sustainability of our productions? are we ensuring access to food in rural areas is costing people in rural areas? It may also be things like, you know, I think everyone will be aware that you go into a supermarket and nutritional kind of locally grown, unprocessed foods are many times more expensive than cheap. Sorry, then yeah, the cheap kind of process foodstuffs that are readily available throughout and, as we know, causing obesity and many other health problems that shows that again, interrelated nature of these different rates. So really, we can we can use the right to food throughout all of our kind of policies and understandings to build in a better processes.

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Yeah.

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Yeah, there's so many, as I was just thinking, you know, you could get into free school meals, I was just thinking about, you know, Julie COVID, is really kind of a good example of a what were the kids who would normally have free school meals, and then they weren't at school, and then, and then the provision that was made, and actually, at the time, there was a real discussion about, actually, it has to be done with dignity, which is a core human rights principle. And therefore, that's where Ash, you know, makes much more sense than having to, you know, tick tock ins to sort of shore all of these things. I think it's really, it's really impractical. I think there's a question in the chat box that is specific. So you might not get answered this in particular, but just some thoughts around time. Okay. So

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she says, I was speaking to someone about a lot mentors advising there and eastern Russia through we like to use the visual and central between themselves and not allowed to give or sell to others in the area. So some has been going to waste questions was What can be done about this? You might not have the answer to that. Actually. Do you have any thoughts? Because I guess this is bringing in that environmental kind of aspect, as well as as this has been production, and it's very simple for him.

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Yeah, yeah. I mean, it's, it's really great to see people thinking about it in these kind of

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these ways. And

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that's the culture of decision making, we would really want to be focusing on and you know, from someone's use of an allotment all the way up to as a national legislation that can be applicable to the situation. So, again, I'm not gonna give a very direct answer here, which I apologise for. But really, what we're looking for is the reasonableness of the decision making with with some bank that so I don't know the situation of East Ayrshire allotments, but

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Let's say it's provided by the local council. And if it's the local council kind of stepping in and not allowing this to take place, what are the reasons for that happening? And what is the overall impact of those petitions on those people using your allotment? So, you know, yes. availability, accessibility of food and and using it for yourself. But it would be about what are the reasons that those kinds of limitations have been put in place? And the reasonableness of those decisions, but certainly, you know, using the right to food to question and to allow the duty area, the local kinds of, well, that's why we think overall, your right to food is being met. That's why these pigments become so become useful in these kind of localised?

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Yeah, is that it's a that is a very practical decision making to actually doesn't, you know, that you can't, it doesn't necessarily mean this black white citizens, it means that you must think about it in that way. And think about, does this affect the access and availability and adequacy of food? For different groups? It could it be helpful. Okay, so question about the Good Food Nation act is in the process of implementation, the national and local good food plans must have regard to the right foods for regard they don't have to comply with it, the illegal thing it bought with some delay to the human rights bill. So the commitment from the Scottish Government was to introduce it by June this year, we're hearing and that might be leads example to September, but there's still a commitment to have it get past it within this parliamentary session. Without delay, how do you see

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this and other work as providing grounding to raising the profile requirements of the forthcoming human rights legislation? Interesting. So we've got that regards of the rights foods is in the Good Food Nation act. It's almost it's come in advance of the human rights bill. And then human rights bill will give that secured right to food you any

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thoughts or comments around and around how that can sort of almost do some of the groundwork working towards that that whiter? Bill?

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Yeah, sure. So I mean, this is the give a little bit about, I have to go into some kind of public law here to explain why perhaps we're looking at two different pieces of legislation, I can understand why that might not make sense, in all situations, this idea of paying due regard to right is different, too, as both sides need to comply. So really, what we're doing with the connection, though, as focused on is ensuring that your programmes those policies are directly paying regard to that they are taking account of the fact that there is a right to food, it is not building in those in that kind of enforcement that that it is not kind of closing that accountability gap in the way that we've discussed through non judicial or judicial measures being able to take into place, right

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guard is a much more procedural base, than the more kind of substantive need to comply with and improve those outcomes in relation to while the good protection bill will be great, and kind of supporting that that, as you say that preparation, ensuring that the right food is already being built into the decision making processes that exist. And hopefully through other duty bearers,

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it will not provide the same level of protection for the right period as

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what we expect to be contained within the human rights bill, if you like. So, I think there is another important point here, which is that rights are often made up of both these kinds of substantive results, outcomes based aspects. So you know, ensuring that it's not just is there a policy in place? It's also is that policy marking to make sure people have better food, but they also have that procedural aspect to it. And that idea of, you know, what are the decision making processes around this? So both pieces of legislation are going to encourage better procedural aspects, but only one will enforce that kind of improvement outcomes.

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And I like that idea that you need books actually, if you get the process and procedures right, then you're much more likely to comply, but you need both right to be made real helpful, at least that arch that we're building that into social media and already there's a question where the phrase available maximum available resources, which is our principle of progressive realisation, and always makes me nervous with regards to accountability, I think it does a lot of people. So when it comes to arable land, almost half is used for barley for whiskey. So like to build resources for growing food, there is only you know, 50% of that, that lands. So

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I suppose there's a big question.

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We hear about how can we square longiflorum? With a right to speech or any thoughts around that?

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Sure. So I actually really love that question because it is viewing resources, as beyond what we have fiscally, in terms of money, is thinking about resources in terms of land,

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you know, our natural resources in Scotland, are we maximising those to make the right to sweat. So that's a really fantastic way of thinking about resource more broadly than perhaps we generally do.

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In terms of this idea of maximum available resources, it's kind of a

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maximum is this, you know, enforcement, we're wanting to use as much as possible to meet the right. And then available is almost like the antithesis of that and saying, Well, it's fine, it doesn't meet the maximum, it's just what you have available. But really, when we look at the maximum available services we're doing, whether that's to do with natural resources, technological resources, social resources, or those more physical resources that might be looked at through kind of budgets and our allocations of money. And what we're doing is saying, how effectively are we using those resources, and are they being kind of ethical, which means that like, the equal distribution of and ensuring that So explain this a little better. So we're really thinking about how our resources are being mobilised, how they're being allocated, and how they're really being used, if you like, in the back. So this idea of a lot of land is being used for very specific purposes. You know, if that could be demonstrated to not to be in kind of directly in contrast, or back to food, the fact that it's actively stopping us from being able to create enough food, then certainly, that would be an issue that we might look at, through the lens of the right to food and others. But again, I want to be careful here, because it is also about that decision making. And so, you know, you would really have to be able to demonstrate that the use of foods for whiskey proach, or the

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use of land for producing whisky, we'd have to kind of be directly related to people in Scotland not being having access to or available food if you like. So it's really that decision making point in there it was reasonableness, using outline for this purpose.

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That's great. There's a there's a comment and chat box from someone who runs a food bank and just make them food banks are more than just transactional food exchanges, as someone I helped rather community Bill absolutely get that as far more than just the provision of foods should have seen if the right food was to be a state mechanism, then we would lose that notion of food banks as a safe and trusted space. I'd worry that would shift the problem or create further barriers. But equally, we shouldn't need to exist. And I guess this comes back to the interaction between the right to foods and other rights, actually, because we're not, we're not here discussing about whether the government should run the food banks, but actually, that, you know, it should fit banks exists need to exist at all, and it links into, for example, adequate social security. So you have adequate enough money in your pocket and affordable housing and all these things so that people shouldn't need to use food banks in the first place, I guess.

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Yeah, yeah, I think, you know, this is kind of relates to, you know, I obviously approach this all from a very international law, language perspective, other such but now, we can also talk about a lot of these issues through the lens of poverty. And you know, whether that absolute or relative, and we can really look at these issues through different lenses, like

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really demonstrates how interrelated all of these bites and issues are in the fact that, generally speaking, it's those who live in, in poverty in Scotland, are finding that their economic, social and cultural rights are not being fulfilled in a manner that was agreed to. And so, you know, I understand that the concerns that you're raising around food banks, it's not necessarily to say that the state would have to take these over. I think what the framework would provide for is that, really, that we understand that something's not right here, whether that's because of social security levels, whether that's because of the affordability of our food production and the way that it's being marketed and the distribution system that we have in place. But something isn't working for an extensive amount of people within our society to rely on these on these charitable donations to be like, so it's really, really important that the government would have to come up with some kind of system

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or agreement or some way of dealing with the kind of underlying issues that lead to usage, not just necessarily come in and say yep, no, we understand this problem. Here. We are going to take over the food banks and Africa.

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might lead to worse outcomes than better. So it is about improving those outcomes to ensure that people have that kind of access available.

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Yeah, yeah, no, absolutely. I was just thinking, you know, we've heard a lot from the new First Minister about one of his priorities being tackling poverty. And if you tackle poverty, then

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actually human rights bill is part of doing that. Because their right to food is most at risk, of course, for people who are living in poverty. So I can put two questions together and last couple minutes, we'll answer interesting. And so what will be put in place to help individuals understand their right to foods? And they either might not, you might not be able to answer that, really, because but what do you think should be in place? Actually, maybe it's question. And then there's a question there about food banks, soup kitchens, keep sort of quite varied. And statistics, how can the Scottish Government

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reach out and take over reaching out to the most vulnerable when there are no formal statistics? And actually, this is really important, because if I will say, it matters to you, you count it, and the government will not know it, they're progressively realising there's right unless they have some form of measuring where they're at, and where they want to get to any comments on either of those. Yeah, great. These are what I would call implementation measures for human rights really, and both can be covered here. So but the first one, as you say, you know, you want to be painting, what you value and the important aspects, you want to be monitoring that and monitoring and evaluating throughout different rights, but in this case,

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is an essential aspect of implementing it. So really, when this when new legislation comes in. To be perfectly honest, these things should already be in place. It's an agreement at an international level, these rights exist already, but at least domestic incorporation will bring in kind of impetus, if you like to ensure that this has been done in a more correct way. But yeah, monitoring and

42:00

evaluating these are essential. And this will, of course, come down to things like the adequate collection of data disaggregation of that data so that we can see how the right food is being impacted in different areas of our society. And this could also be led by things like indicators and benchmarking to ensure that we can understand how we're progressively realising that we are putting these things over time.

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The other implementation measure that you're talking about there, I think is, you know, I don't I don't see it in terms of what the plans are in government anymore, be fair, in terms of how they wish to implement the overall legislation, but certainly, core first steps of

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any legislation. But let's put this back in the right perspective is awareness raising, and capacity building. So it is about ensuring people are aware, it's about ensuring that end duty bearers capacity is built these decision makings, these languages these obligations can be understood, really embedded throughout how decisions are being taken. So, you know, from my perspective, this is a government duty, you know, this is it's their role to implement this legislation and implement these rights. But it's also a kind of societal push, and the more that people throughout charitable sector, civic society threatener, all the good work that the consortium is doing on raising awareness around these rights, like the more that this work happens, the right different sectors of society, the more likely it is that you're going to see local councils, health boards, other GT pairs, Scottish Government, adopting these frameworks, and demonstrating what they're doing through these, as well. So really, from my perspective, yes, they are duty, but also, I would take it on all of our own shoulders as well, to ensure that we understand we have the right to food, and we understand what that means and how to clean it.

43:58

Absolutely, that is a fantastic challenge to end on. Actually, that's where also I should take us right and use it and to advocate for the human rights bill, to get to be introduced and pass. And actually that as you mentioned earlier, the right to food is in the UN CRC. So the children's rights convention is about to be come into force from July this year. So actually, it's really pressing, in terms of Right to Food for children, young people. Thank you so much and isn't as been really helpful. Thank you, everyone for joining us. Thanks for having me.

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