

## **Garden Court Chambers: Advancing Socio-Economic Rights**

Garden Court Chambers was founded on a commitment to social justice. For more than 50 years, our barristers have used the law to challenge injustice, protect human rights and uphold the rule of law, always with a focus on standing up for people affected by discrimination, poverty and disadvantage.

That commitment continues to drive our work. Across public law, housing, community care, education, discrimination, immigration, environmental justice and our other areas of practice, our barristers see first-hand the impact that inequality, discrimination, and a lack of access to essential services have on people's lives.

Our members are instructed in landmark cases that challenge unlawful policies affecting individuals and communities; cases that shape the law and move the dial on how rights are interpreted and enforced.

Alongside our casework, members contribute to the development of the law through writing, training, research and engagement with Parliament, academics and the wider legal community.

This conference comes at a moment of multiple economic and social crises; a time when our legal frameworks now must recognise positive obligations on governments to ensure that everyone has access to basic resources and services.

We produced this conference because advancing socio-economic rights requires collaboration. Garden Court has for decades worked alongside NGOs, campaigners, academics, policy experts and communities seeking to turn principles of equality and human dignity into practical change. Many of those organisations and individuals are represented at this conference.

**Socio-Economic Rights: The Next Chapter** is an opportunity to bring that community closer together: to share expertise and experience, build stronger connections, consider where the law currently falls short, and explore the opportunities for change.

We hope that today's discussions will contribute to the continuing development of socio-economic rights in the UK and to how those rights can make a practical difference to people's lives.