



Social Rights Alliance England

Invitation for Expressions of Interest For local groups to co-create a Social Rights Alliance in England

Issue date: Thursday 10th September 2020

Submission deadline: 5pm on Monday 12th October 2020

1. Introduction

Following the successful establishment of a regional social rights alliance in the [North East of England](#), we are supporting the development of a new national network of economic and social rights (ESR) activists – the Social Rights Alliance England (SRAE). The SRAE aims to make ESR locally relevant and drive change at local and national levels. We are inviting local groups and people to get involved.

[Recognised in international human rights law](#) as the essential social and economic conditions needed to live a life of dignity and freedom, ESR are the rights of everyday life, for everyday people. They include the right to work and workers' rights, social security, health, education, food, water, housing, and the right to a healthy environment.

2. The opportunity

We are inviting local and regional groups and organisations working with people with lived experience of inequality and injustice to join a new SRAE and work together to address some of the issues they face from a rights-based perspective.

Involvement in the SRAE will offer groups and organisations a rights-based approach to make change on issues of inequality and injustices that matter to them. Groups will be supported to develop their knowledge, skills, tools, resources, and collective power from a rights-based perspective.

Once identified, these groups and organisations will be local SRAE members.

3. About the project

The SRAE, support by Just Fair's project Coordinator is inviting local groups and organisations to become local SRAE members.

Once identified, the Coordinator will work with local SRAE members to develop local or regional SRAE alliances and campaigns and get involved in the co-creation of the national SRAE.

Rooted in people's lived experiences, the local or regional alliances will aim to:

- build local knowledge and understanding of ESR.
- develop skills in, and capacity for, community-based research, leadership and mobilisation, campaigning, and advocacy.

- challenge established power structures, raising the voices and experiences of communities experiencing inequality and injustice.
- drive social change from a rights-based perspective, on the issues that communities identify as *their* priorities.

The development of these alliances will likely follow a similar project cycle:

- Outreach – build links in communities, identify groups and individuals that need to be heard.
- Listening – use a range of tools to explore local issues, develop an understanding of the structural issues that need challenging.
- Research – explore how local issues can be challenged through the various ESR frameworks and legislation.
- Group work – bring network members together to identify key issues and ways forward.
- Skills and capacity development – skill up and strategize, develop specific training and resources for campaigns.
- Campaigning – plan and deliver campaigns that hold local authority, government, and other institutions to their ESR obligations to drive change.

We envisage that the national SRAE will eventually comprise a number of local and regional alliances working on specific campaigns.

The development of the SRAE work is supported by 2 part-time Social Rights Coordinators at Just Fair and part funded by a grant from the Tudor Trust.

This is in addition to the SRA North East England Manager who coordinates the [SRANE](#) project.

Funding to support further SRAE development or specific projects may be sort as the work develops.

4. Our invitation

We would like to hear from local or regional groups or organisations who are interested in the SRAE project and would like to become a SRAE member.

We are open to the type of group or organisation you might be – you could be an unincorporated group, an informal collective of activists, a local or regional organisation, a network, or a campaign group. Ideally, we are interested to hear from small clusters of groups that already work together or would like to work together to develop a local or regional SRAE alliance. Clusters could be formed around a specific theme (e.g. period poverty, homelessness) or a specific area (local authority, town etc). You do not need to be part of an already established cluster.

We are open to responses from anywhere in England and will start to develop SRAE alliances in areas where there appears to be the most interest and need. We are particularly interested in developing alliances across Yorkshire & Humber and the North of England.

Members of local or regional SRAE alliances can be involved in a variety of ways. Prior knowledge or skills are not needed as the project will build these as we go. Individual members and groups could become local human rights advocates, trainers in ESR awareness, community researchers, campaigners on a range of issues, social media champions, and/or steering group members of a regional alliance. Involvement will be flexible and allow members to move and grow as needed.

Unfortunately, at this time, the SRAE is not open to local authorities or statutory bodies, but we would be pleased to hear from officers in these organisations who would like more information.

Please note there is no funding available through the SRAE for local members, but Just Fair will provide support to co-ordinate and develop local and regional SRAE alliances, and all training and resources developed will be available free to all involved.

5. Submission requirements

Organisations or networks are invited to express an interest in becoming a SRAE member by completing the submission form and returning this to the Social Rights Alliance England Co-ordinator SRA@justfair.org.uk by 5pm on Friday 9th October 2020.

6. Next steps:

- Once received, Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by the Social Rights Alliance Coordinators
- All applicants will be contacted in the w/c 12 October to arrange follow-up calls
- The SRAE focus areas will be decided and all those who have submitted an Expression of Interest will be contacted with plans for the next steps in w/c 26 of October.

7. About Just Fair

Registered as a charity since 2011, we exist to realise a fairer and more just society in the UK by monitoring and advocating the protection of economic and social rights (ESR).

We are committed to increasing public awareness of international human rights law and the capability to use it, and the advancement of high-quality thinking, training, and practice to ensure that ESR are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

We hold government and public authorities accountable by ensuring that law, policy, and practice complies with our international human rights obligations. We engage with international human rights bodies when they assess whether laws and policies are in line with the international covenant on economic, social, and cultural rights, which is legally binding in the UK.

Through our partnerships with charities, local community groups, academic institutions, and many others we aim to raise awareness of ESR and build momentum behind these rights to ensure justice for all.

8. Limitations

There are no funds attached to this project to be distributed to member groups.

More information

If the Expression of Interest process is not suitable to your group or organisation, or you cannot make this deadline, but are still interested to be involved in the SRAE project please do get in touch.

For more information contact

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