THE SYMPOSIUM
Poverty is a key challenge facing the whole world, but its effects are acutely experienced in developing countries. The Eastern Africa region continues to grapple with poverty in its multi-facetedness. More recently, prolonged droughts have exacerbated the poverty situation, in a region already steeped in spiraling inflation, low levels of investments, corruption, high incidences of violent crime, high numbers of refugees from the civil strife in Somalia, poor infrastructure, poor health standards, overstretched informal settlements (slums) and alarming levels of youth unemployment.

It is against this background, that the Center for Human Rights and Peace at the University of Nairobi, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and the Institute of International Education organized this two-day symposium on the topic: “Poverty as a Human Rights Violation?” This symposium provided a forum for 30 scholars, researchers and human rights practitioners to share experiences, identify opportunities and constraints to human rights and rights-based approaches to poverty eradication in Kenya and the Eastern Africa region.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS
The Center for Human Rights and Peace (CHRP) of the University of Nairobi was founded in 2008. It is a pioneer academic center for education, research and outreach activities on human rights and peace in Kenya, with a vision of becoming an educational center of excellence for the creation of an inclusive society that values and respects human rights and peace.

The need to establish the Centre was informed by the fact that education in human rights and peace constitutes an essential contribution to the long term prevention of conflicts and human rights abuses. It also represents an important investment in the attainment of a peaceful and just society. Human rights and peace education promotes values, beliefs and attitudes that encourage individuals to uphold respect for the dignity of the human person, harmony and justice.

The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) of the University of Oslo was established in 1987, to promote the practice of internationally adopted human rights by means of academic research, teaching, assessment and consultancies, training, information and documentation. The Centre is multidisciplinary and is the National Institution on Human Rights in Norway.

POVERTY AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION?


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