

Paul Hunt

U.N Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health



In 1998, Paul Hunt - a national of New Zealand - was elected by the UN to serve as an independent expert on the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1999-2002). Between 2001-2, at the request of Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, he co-authored draft *Guidelines on Human Rights Approaches to Poverty Reduction*.

In 2002, he was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health -- the first appointment to this new human rights mechanism. As Special Rapporteur, he endeavours to help States, and other actors, better promote and protect the right to health. In his work, he has chosen to focus in particular on poverty, discrimination and the right to health. An independent expert, he undertakes country missions and reports to the UN General Assembly and UN Commission on Human Rights.

Paul has lived, and undertaken human rights work, in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and South Pacific. He has written extensively on economic, social and cultural rights, including *Reclaiming Social Rights: International and Comparative Perspectives* (1996) and *Culture, Rights and Cultural Rights: Perspectives from the South Pacific* (2000). He is a Professor in law, and Member of the Human Rights Centre, at the University of Essex (England) and Adjunct Professor at the University of Waikato (New Zealand).