# The Advancement of Social Citizenship as a Struggle for Social Justice

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T.H. Marshall's theory of social citizenship played an important role in the social and economic debates after the second world war and was closely associated with the post-war political settlement and the creation of the welfare state. The idea was built around the historical evolution of civil and political rights, and more so of the addition and strengthening of social rights, as part of the status of citizenship. Social rights in Marshall's view include the availability and access to a wide range of welfare and social security services, with the aim of assuring an adequate level of living to all, commensurate with the standards of the society in which we live.

Despite the enormous changes that have taken place since Marshall developed his idea of social citizenship in the mid 20th century, the idea and the underlying theory have not lost their importance. Social citizenship has become a major tool of social integration and of reinforcing the individual's feelings of belonging and inclusion. In practice it is instrumental in the legitimation of welfare spending, the adoption of the concept of universality and the removal of stigma and social inferiority to the receiving of publicly provided social services. It has also enabled governments to respond to emerging social needs and evolve policies to deal with them.

Although the idea of social citizenship is widely accepted as a main tool of social inclusion and integration, the struggle for its actual realization continues with various degrees of intensity in many countries, Israel among them. This has recently found its expression as a part of the demands of the social protest movement for social justice. Among the underlying forces in this struggle lies the tension between managing of the national economies and the growing global economic order.

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