



Seeking the Right to Food

Despite a constitutional right to food, a comprehensive social security structure, being a net exporter of agricultural products and maintaining a rising GDP, freedom from hunger remains a pipedream for millions of South Africans. With a constant surge in food prices, the availability of sustenance is often seriously threatened for all of South Africa's population. While the underprivileged majority residing in townships often demonstrate their discontent for poor service delivery on the streets, they rarely channel this strategy into taming food inflation. This study seeks to understand this irony and examine ways in which this trend could be reversed. Proposing a compelling argument for food activism, Bright Nkrumah suggests ways of mobilising disempowered groups to reclaim this inherent right. Presented alongside historical and contemporary case studies to illustrate the dynamics of collective action and food security in South Africa, he draws from legal, social and political theory to make the case for 'activism' as a force for alleviating food insecurity. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

BRIGHT NKUMAH is affiliated with the Global Change Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand. He received his DPhil from the Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria and has published extensively on political contestation, minority rights, food (in)security, urban agriculture and democratisation.



Seeking the Right to Food

Food Activism in South Africa

BRIGHT NKRUMAH

University of the Witwatersrand



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316519790

DOI: [10.1017/9781009019002](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009019002)

© Bright Nkrumah 2021

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009019002 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009019002](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009019002)

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Nkrumah, Bright, 1982– author.

Title: Seeking the right to food : food activism in South Africa / Bright Nkrumah.

Description: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021015127 (print) | LCCN 2021015128 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316519790 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009019002 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Food security – South Africa. | Right to food – South Africa. | Food supply – Social aspects – South Africa. | Food supply – Government policy – South Africa. | Human rights movements – South Africa. | South Africa – Social policy. | BISAC: POLITICAL SCIENCE / American Government / General | POLITICAL SCIENCE / American Government / General
Classification: LCC HD9017.S72 N67 2021 (print) | LCC HD9017.S72 (ebook) | DDC 363.80968–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021015127>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021015128>

ISBN 978-1-316-51979-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-01117-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.