Dear Professor Alston.

Thank you for coming over to the UK, as British Politicians and the public and private organisations they oversee (with their eyes shut) do need outside scrutiny. You can see how perversely they reacted to the last Special Rapporteur that came over, denying abuses, backed by structures that have been set up in ways to blur accountability.

I am the Kilburn Unemployed Workers Group (KUWG) Archivist, and we were set up after the Financial Crash to help unemployed people, as rhetoric against The Unemployed (Shirkers) was ratcheted up and we are people on JSA, ESA, DLA/PIP and Pensioners and people kicked off benefits (Sanctioned). Cuts to CAB and other advice centres meant that we needed to set up our own ways of supporting people in getting our RIGHTFUL benefits, and campaigning for changes, with various other groups like, Crossroads Women’s Centre in Kentish Town, Fuel Poverty Action, Housing groups, Mental Health Resistance Network and more that pop up. We have a weekly Thursday meeting, that has a different Facilitator (Chair) and Minute-Taker every week so there are no ‘bosses’ and people can see how meetings are run, and therefore can see how inappropriately meetings with DWP, Healthcare “Professionals”, Tribunals etc are run, and seeing if normal Natural Justice is being applied. Our motto is “Never go anywhere official alone” as a lot of problems have been caused by so-called ‘Professionals’ lying about meetings with Vulnerable people like ourselves. We have come to the conclusion that the Government are attacking Vulnerable people BECAUSE we are vulnerable. It does make a perverted sense-it’s easier than attacking the strong, isn’t it?

Our meetings run every Thursday 3.15pm-5.20pm The Small Hall, Kingsgate Community Centre, 107 Kingsgate Road, Kilburn, NW6 2JH and we have Guest Speakers sometimes between 4.15-4.45pm and **offer you the invitation to come and visit us on 8th or 15th November while you are here**. **We normally protest outside Caxton House DWP HQ once a month on the first Friday of the month noon-1pm, but could change it to Friday 9th November noon-1pm so you could see us ‘in action’.** We have nearly all had benefits stopped for unjust reasons putting us into dire straits, and we have had to set up our own Hardship Fund from monies collected in our ‘”Lucky hat”, and got The Quex Road Methodist Church to provide us with a separate Hardship Fund of £120 a year, and we are also now Referrers to North West London Sufra Food bank, writing out Food bank Vouchers ourselves to people with no money/food, mainly awaiting benefit decision appeal results.

Laws and policies that may or may not be reasonable, but with implementations that are deliberately criminally negligent-but as the Government implementing may or may not be technically illegal. Weren’t Hitler’s laws ‘legal’ in Nazi Germany...didn’t make them right or internationally legal? (Breaking Geneva conventions for instance-which is why an outside body is important in assessing the UK).

The Bedroom Tax for instance may be a technically democratically voted in measure, however wrong we may believe it is. But for it to be applied to Residents ALREADY *in situ*, is bad law as Residents were not told of this BEFORE they moved in. This type of retrospective law, when there is no setting up of smaller places for people to move into is a Government-inspired dereliction of duty, causing financial misery to people that have done no wrong. We went to Birmingham to remember Grandmother Stephanie Bottrill who ran in front of a lorry killing herself due to the tax-who later was found NOT to be eligible for the Tax after all.

ESA and PIP. It is quite clear that Private Medical Assessment Companies Atos, Maximus, Crapita have a vested interest in having repeated assessments as they get paid for their assessments, which is why people win their cases to then shortly afterwards get reassessed with all the anxiety that entails knowing they could be kicked off, or have benefits lessened by arbitrary pot-luck reasons.

You should visit some of these Medical Assessment Centres to see the people waiting with their wheelchairs, and crutches, being found fit-to-work or not disabled enough for PIP. Also see some medical assessments in action. Ashton-Under-Lyne Medical Assessment Centre as blogged by Charlotte Hughes would be a good place to see human misery in action! Harrow another one as seen by us and myself personally.

Checking out the rubber-stamper DWP “Decision-Makers” who BOAST that they have no medical knowledge, who agree or disagree with the so-called “Healthcare Professionals” –also who call themselves “Disability Analysts” and can override GPs’ and Consultants’ letters. We have neither confidence in DWP “Decision makers” nor their use in the Perfunctory “Mandatory Reconsideration” process which we all know is a ruse to appear that there is a ‘fair’ process. We normally expect a negative decision from them, as they would be going against their colleagues, and therefore request you visit for example the notorious DWP Hoxton London Decision-Maker Establishment, and there is information about the small amount of time they actually take to go through MRs that innocent Vulnerable have spent time preparing with Support Workers/Centres. The fact that an overturned decision only gets you what was owed, and no “Compensation” as with normal organisations, shows there is no incentive to get the decision right in the first place.

We at KUWG do have a belief that the Tribunal is the best bet for getting justice, but my feeling is that the Judges, who are Independent, should be making more noise against the amount of clearly rotten cases they are having to adjudicate against. In Criminal Cases for instance the CPS not disclosing vital information about Rape cases, the Judiciary did make strong comments about poor evidence supplied by CPS, and they do in other cases, which doesn’t stop them being Independent, it actually shows their Independence, and the Welfare Tribunal judges I believe are stopping individual case wrongs, but not commenting enough on the obvious PATTERN of nudge-nudge-wink-wink corruption and collusion of Medical Health assessors and DWP Decision-Makers. There was a programme on TV a year ago where a medical assessor admitted he writes no points on forms, BEFORE he even has seen the Claimant!

But like Neil Couling **CBE** Director General of Universal Credit who dismissed a DWP Worker’s Whistle-blowing as mere “anecdote” when losing one’s anonymity could mean sacking etc, the medical assessor was just brushed off as a loose cannon. This is why we in KUWG are fiercely strident on keeping our names anonymous, as we don’t want National and Local Government departments, twisting our lifestyles into ways that they can wrongly stop our benefits. The ability for these people with power to just turn off our benefits for us to then have to spend our time (mainly in physical and mental and financial agony) is a complete abuse of power. Janice Hartley, 53, was made a **Companion of the Order of the Bath** for “services to the Development of Universal Credit.”

It should be noted Professor Alston, that also given titles from Britain were **Sir** Jimmy Savile **OBE**, and Harvey Weinstein **CBE**... You could also find it interesting to see the amount of Secretaries of State for Work & Pensions there have been since 2016 and the reasons for the changes. Could help you to see the ‘calibre’ of the ‘TOP Brass’ of the DWP? Like the PCS Union, we believe pressure is placed on the Workers to go against fair behaviour and our kuwg leaflets support the Workers who are bullied just as Claimants are and we believe we should ‘unite and fight’ the bosses together.

We note that if for example one isn’t already on a benefit then appealing it and winning it technically means a delayed process payment. But if one is already on DLA or PIP and if stopped, even if case is won, there can be the loss of monies that meant no care being provided, or losing one’s mobility Car, that time of lost critical help cannot be replaced by just the money. People (and I have a deceased friend) can DIE or COMMIT SUICIDE BEFORE the monies get paid. Not getting a Freedom Pass means spending monies, or staying in, and that time and money spent, will not be recovered by winning the appeal for the Freedom Pass, and again there is no Compensation. Due to the Financial Crisis, Councils (including Camden) have refrained from issuing Freedom Passes for people with Mental Health issues; it is solely “Mobility” criteria they use, although pressure of evidence can achieve results. I believe that “Physiotherapists,” “Occupational Therapists”, “Disability Analysts” are the new Gods who decide whether you get benefits, get Freedom Passes, or stay longer (they are used to kick patients out of hospital for SHORTER stays) and a visit to Camden Freedom Pass Assessment Centre and Charing Cross Hospital would uncover the worms under the stones. So all ‘legal’ but preposterous!

We do not believe that any self-help organisation dealing with these issues would say any different to what is mentioned here, however far-fetched it seems. The Government say they want to help people into work, but have just closed @78 Jobcentres over the past year nationally, including Neasden and Kilburn in our area, without even allowing us a Consultation process as they stuck to rigid policies, so where once people could go into their jobcentre on the way shopping, it now has to be a hike miles away, especially for Vulnerable people with low benefits, and ailments that curtail their mobility as they have been deemed “fit-to-work” or “fit-to-prepare-for-work”.

KUWG have done weekly protests mainly outside Kilburn Jobcentre for years before it was shut, and about Universal Credit for at least 5 years, although not implemented in our Brent, Camden, and Westminster areas yet. We now do the monthly protest outside the DWP HQ, and attach some of our leaflets to show the Governments just don’t want to listen. Also attaching Wednesday 12/9/18 Prime Minister’s Question time (PMQs), which CLEARLY shows direct answers are not forthcoming from the Prime Minister, and attach some quotes from other PMQs about ESA, PIP, and Universal Credit, where proper policy questions are deflected, which shows the poverty and misery of Claimants is excused.

Some cases I have personally dealt with and/or seen the paper work are completely obnoxious. A Lady declared fit-to-work because she travelled by 3 buses to church. When I asked her what she did at church when she got there she said she just lays down in the pew and cries, due to her housing issues and benefit claim! 1 Gentleman had declared he visits his local mosque once a week, a big mosque once a month, and his sister to see his nephews he loves so much once every 2 months and his sister provides him with food. Because he could get to these places he was declared fit-to-work. When I asked him how much visiting he did before he got ill he said he visited the local mosque at least once (sometimes three times) a day, the big mosque once a month, and his sister weekly! Enough to show his illness had a massive impact on his ability to turn up for work. When he did get a taxi-cab job he had TWO crashes in the same day, and a teaching job lasted 2 days as he couldn’t stand up due to his back pain! At the Tribunal the Judge said his “facial tic”, due to his BRAIN INJURY FROM A RACIST ATTACK wasn’t bad enough! Another friend was made fit-to-work from his bad back (ex-British Army) as his Table-Tennis for some exercise made him employable! Another friend was kicked off the sick as he did voluntary work ONE DAY a week in a CHARITY shop! Using people’s Religion, Exercise, and attempt at Voluntary work against them is against their Human Rights and is disgusting.

A case where a really ill young man who couldn’t move out of his wheelchair without EXTREME AGONY had found written in his Atos notes that he had walked into Assessment Room onto chair by himself, and taken his jacket off by himself. When I asked his sister about this as she had gone with him, she told me SHE had had to carry him into the Assessment Room and put him onto the chair, and he wasn’t wearing a jacket! Luckily I asked her to write and sign a letter stating this and gave it to the Tribunal Judge and he got his ESA. The Atos assessor when he wrote that the young man had been going to weekly English Lessons had also ‘forgotten’ to add that he had to cancel the course as he hadn’t turned up enough times due to his immobility issues and pains! Another Gentleman with little English had an Interpreter at the ESA Tribunal who was asked by the Doctor on the Panel “How long can you watch the TV AND CONCENTRATE?” My friend answered via the Interpreter “15-20 minutes”. I asked the interpreter if he had mentioned “AND CONCENTRATE” and he admitted he hadn’t. When he asked the full question, my friend via the Interpreter said “I can’t concentrate at all due to my pain”. After an hour of questions he was awarded the ESA there and then, without asking about the many other ailments that the Atos Assessor had dismissed!

Most people who come to kuwg have been given the ZERO points for ESA & PIP, and eventually win at Tribunal, and some like me overturn the Tribunal and win at another, and it is NOT because further new evidence was provided. It’s because lying is endemic in initial Medical Assessors and DWP Decision-Makers turning a blind eye or two.

Our Hardship Funds allow us to provide monies for people who have simply run out of money for Gas, Electric, Food, phone calls, and Travel, and we also provide free photocopying, free Recorded Delivery of benefits related letters, Taxis to assessments/Tribunals if stuck, payments for GP Records and Letters if being charged-anything to prevent financial obstacles putting us off from claiming. One doesn’t have to be a Doctor or Solicitor to see how wrong the decisions can be against innocent people, and the decisions are so so so obviously wrong, we win our cases WITHOUT legal/medical training-we just stick to plain old-fashioned Natural Justice- a commodity Governments and Private Company leeches chuck out of the so-called Professionals’ windows.

Please investigate-you only have to scratch slightly under the surface to understand the abuse of power against the MOST VULNERABLE! Thank you! From KUWG

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<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3533925/She-s-f-ing-fat-Government-benefits-assessors-caught-insulting-disabled-claimants-cases-vetting.html>

Attached are Standard KUWG/UNITE COMMUNITY leaflet, some PMQs evidences, placard and a couple of Bespoke KUWG leaflets showing Government informed of problems, but not morally interested.