# Response of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to Consultation:

## Consultation details

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## For more information please contact

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| Name of contact providing response and their office address: |
| Michael ClarkeEquality and Human Rights CommissionBlock 1, Spur DGovernment BuildingsSt Agnes RoadCardiffCF14 4YJ |
| Telephone number: | (+44) 29 2044 7702 |
| Email address: | Michael.Clarke@equalityhumanrights.com |

**Equality and Human Rights Commission submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights’ report on the United Kingdom**

**Introduction**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) is the National Equality Body for Scotland, England and Wales and an “A Status” National Human Rights Institution. In Scotland, the Commission shares its mandate to promote and protect human rights in Scotland with the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC), with the Commission’s remit generally covering human rights matters that are reserved and the SHRC’s remit covering devolved human rights issues that are legislated on by the Scottish Parliament and Government. The submission is therefore limited to England, Wales and reserved matters in Scotland and follows the numbering adopted by the Special Rapporteur in his call for written submission on issues related to poverty and human rights in the United Kingdom.

Please note that where we have not answered a question it is because we don’t have a position or evidence.

**A. GENERAL**

**(1) What is the definition of poverty and extreme poverty that your organization employs in the context of the United Kingdom and to what extent do official definitions used by the state adequately encompass poverty in all its dimensions?**

Poverty is measured using two indicators in the Commission’s Measurement Framework for Equality and Human Rights:[[1]](#footnote-1)

* the proportion of adults or children living in households below 60% of the contemporary median income after housing costs (also known as ‘relative poverty’) using data collected in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Family Resources Survey; and
* the proportion of adults experiencing severe material deprivation.[[2]](#footnote-2)

We also consider food poverty and fuel poverty.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The majority of households living in poverty contain individuals in employment, reaching 1.1 million people in in-work poverty in 2016.[[4]](#footnote-4) The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 downgraded income-based poverty measures and removed targets for income poverty and material deprivation.

**(2) What is your view on the current official measurement of poverty by the government, what are the shortcomings of the current measurement and what alternatives would be feasible?**

UK Government uses both relative and absolute measures of income poverty and analysis.[[5]](#footnote-5) The UK Government also collects data on material deprivation.[[6]](#footnote-6)

The UK Government’s Household Below Average Income statistics do not collect data on income poverty by the groups protected by the Equality Act 2010. A further shortcoming is the lack of any intersectional data or analysis.

These definitions of poverty are not applied to asylum seekers who have been assessed as destitute and are financially supported by the Home Office. Their financial support falls well below poverty levels and is not linked to mainstream benefits.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**(3) What are the most significant human rights violations that people living in poverty and extreme poverty in the United Kingdom experience? Please exemplify by referring to specific cases and relevant norms of international human rights law.**

As a result of sanctions and a poorly administered social security system, many people in the UK are finding themselves totally destitute, there is increasing use of food banks in Universal Credit areas and homelessness is increasing. This is in breach of their human right to an adequate standard of living, as per Article 11(1) of ICESCR.[[8]](#footnote-8)

The Commission’s statutory report on the state of equality and human rights ‘Is Britain Fairer?’ provides a useful overview of the key issues and will be published in October 2018.[[9]](#footnote-9)

**(4) Could you specify how poverty and extreme poverty in the United Kingdom intersect with civil and political rights issues (such as for example the right to political participation or the right to equality before the law)? Please exemplify by referring to specific cases and relevant norms of international human rights law.**

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) significantly reduced the scope of civil legal aid in England and Wales.[[10]](#footnote-10) Applications for legal aid and expenditure on legal aid continue to fall.[[11]](#footnote-11) This could result in a breach of Article 2 of the ICCPR, as without legal aid such individuals may have no effective remedy.[[12]](#footnote-12) [[13]](#footnote-13)

**(5) Could you specify how poverty and extreme poverty in the United Kingdom intersect with economic and social rights issues (such as the right to education or the right to health care)? Please exemplify by referring to specific cases and relevant' norms of international human rights law.**

The Social Mobility Commission (SMC) found that, in England in 2017, social mobility gaps opened up at an early age, with disadvantaged children 14% less likely to be ‘school-ready’ at age five than more advantaged children. Disadvantaged young people in Great Britain were found to be almost twice as likely not to be in education, employment or training a year after their GCSE exams, normally taken at age 16.[[14]](#footnote-14) The interrelation between poverty and socio-economic inequality and disadvantage in the UK has also been confirmed by recent analysis.[[15]](#footnote-15)

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children in the care of a local authority and those with socio-economic disadvantage continue to underperform against average levels.[[16]](#footnote-16) Pupils with special educational needs, those eligible for free school meals and GRT pupils are more likely to be excluded.[[17]](#footnote-17) In Wales, the rate of exclusions for pupils eligible for free school meals was up to four times higher than those not eligible.[[18]](#footnote-18)

Forthcoming research from the Commission highlights that lack of finances for destitute asylum seekers presents barriers to healthcare including not being able to afford transport to appointments or over the counter medication, and in some instances prevented people from following healthcare advice.[[19]](#footnote-19)

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Rights recommended that the UK commence the public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities, enshrined in Section 1 of the Equality Act (EA) 2010, but the current Government has no plans to do this.[[20]](#footnote-20) [[21]](#footnote-21)

**(6) Which areas of the United Kingdom should the Special Rapporteur visit in light of the poverty and human rights situation in those locations?**

The Special Rapporteur should visit a range of types of areas including: high levels of deprivation, inner cities, peripheral housing estates, mixed ethnicity communities, small coastal towns, post industrial areas, and rural districts.

 **(7) Which individuals and organizations should the Special Rapporteur meet with during his country visit to the United Kingdom?**

The Commission is hoping to provide a list of names and organisations for England, Scotland and Wales.

**B. AUSTERITY**

**(8) To what extent has austerity been necessary given the fiscal outlook of the United Kingdom in the last decade?**

**(9) Have austerity measures implemented by the government taken adequate account of the impact on vulnerable groups and reflected efforts to minimize negative effects for those groups and individuals?**

Our research indicates that overall, changes to taxes, benefits, tax credits and Universal Credit since 2010 are regressive and will have a disproportionate impact on disabled people, certain ethnic groups, lone parents and women.[[22]](#footnote-22) We are recommending that the Government should:

* Uprate all benefits in line with inflation;
* Reverse the two child limit on Child Tax Credits within Universal Credit;
* Reinstate the level of Work Allowance to the 2012 level;
* Reinstate the Severe and Enhanced Disability Premiums under Universal Credit;
* Provide increased support to disabled people placed in the Employment and Support Allowance Work Related Activity Group (WRAG), which is equivalent to the support group, and acknowledges the additional, unavoidable living costs relating to their condition;
* Ensure all full-time disabled students who receive Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments should be eligible for Universal Credit and treated as having a limited capability for work;
* Carry out an equality impact assessment of the conditionality and sanctions system on claimants to ensure that sanctions are not disproportionately applied, and conditionality is reasonable and based on flexibility of easements;[[23]](#footnote-23) specifically for lone parent families, ethnic minority groups and disabled people;
* Introduce publicly available service standards for the social security system which sets out the rights of claimants, are fair and accessible, and measured and reported on;
* Ensure that work coaches are trained to deliver tailored employment support, providing evidence of the steps taken to make sure that the specific needs of lone parents and disabled people are being met;
* Tackle the disproportionate use of sanctions against young Black and Ethnic Minority men by ensuring guidance to Job Centre advisers on when sanctions should be applied and when they can or should be waived or varied is implemented effectively; and
* Collect and analyse ethnicity data broken down to more specific ethnic groups including Gypsy, Roma and Travellers, and ensure that reporting of ethnicity data is accompanied by a narrative identifying the main patterns within and across the data sets.

The Government’s ‘Impact on Equalities’ report,[[24]](#footnote-24) published at the time of the last Spending Review in 2015, was, in our view, limited, selective and subjective in its coverage of equality issues.[[25]](#footnote-25) Her Majesty’s Treasury (HMT) has adopted very few of our recommendations[[26]](#footnote-26) to improve the equalities impact assessment and recently, the Treasury Select Committee has been critical of HMT’s approach.[[27]](#footnote-27) We have recommended that as part of the next Spending Review in 2019, HMT should undertake and publish an equality and cumulative impact assessment of its spending plans on protected groups.[[28]](#footnote-28)

**(10) What have the effects of austerity been on poverty (and inequality) levels in the United Kingdom in the last decade?**

We have recommended that, as a matter of urgency, the UK Government should review the level of welfare benefits to ensure that they provide an adequate standard of living for households.[[29]](#footnote-29)

**(11) Have the human rights of individuaIs experiencing poverty been affected by austerity measures?**

The Commission and a number of UN bodies[[30]](#footnote-30) have raised concerns as to the adverse impact of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 on the rights to an adequate standard of living and to social security, to access to justice, to independent living and others, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups, such as children, disabled people and women.[[31]](#footnote-31)

**(12) How have local governments been affected by austerity measures in the last decades? If possible, please specify the impact on public services such as police and fire departments, public libraries, and the administration of the welfare system by local authorities.**

The Commission has a forthcoming publication on the Cumulative impact on living standards of public spending changes which we will share with the Special Rapporteur when it is published in late October. Our forthcoming ‘Is Britain Fairer?’ report will highlight evidence on the impact of reductions to social care funding on the provision of services.[[32]](#footnote-32)

**(13) What alternatives to austerity might have been considered by governments in the last decade? Could any such alternatives have had a more positive impact on poverty (and inequality) levels in the United Kingdom?**

**(14) What are the potential implications of Brexit on austerity measures in the-coming years?**

**C. UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

**(15) To what extent has the Universal Credit been able to achieve the goals identified above?**

Please see Q18.

 **(16) What has the impact of Universal Credit been on poverty and the lives of the poor in the United Kingdom until now? It would be helpful to also distinguish the specific impact of Universal Credit on specific groups, including for example children, persons with disabilities, women and other groups which may be more vulnerable on the basis of their identity and circumstances.**

Our research[[33]](#footnote-33) indicates lone parents (mostly women) will lose around £5,250 (19%) of their net annual income; households with at least one disabled adult and a disabled child lose over £6,500 (13%); Bangladeshi and Pakistani households will lose around £4,400 and £2,700 respectively. Under Universal Credit, out-of-work lone parents aged under 25, have had their basic allowance cut by £65 per week, unlike lone parents over 25.[[34]](#footnote-34)

The Commission has concerns about the roll out of Universal Credit with evidence showing that a significant minority of people are struggling to navigate the system with a lack of adequate support in place.

A recent report by the National Audit Office (June 2018),[[35]](#footnote-35) states that the DWP had not done enough to protect and support ‘vulnerable claimants’ who had suffered difficulties during the implementation of Universal Credit.

**(17) Claimants apply for Universal Credit online. What has been the impact of Universal Credit being a 'digital­only benefit' on the ability of potential claimants to apply for this benefit? How does this relate to broadband internet access in the UK and the so-called 'digital divide'? What is the role of public libraries and Jobcentres in enabling access to broadband internet for those applying for Universal Credit and have these public services been adequate for the purpose?**

Non-digital access routes to benefits has caused significant hardship for some ethnic minority groups who have language barriers, disabled people, in particular those with mental health conditions, learning difficulies or specific mobility impairments, and those with low or no literacy or access to the internet, such as some Gypsy, Roma and Travellers, and some people living in isolated rural communities. Lack of internet access or a computer at home is most common among older claimants.[[36]](#footnote-36)

**(18) What has the impact been of various forms of 'welfare conditionality' in the context of Universal Credit in terms of incentivizing work?**

For lone parents, increased conditionality around work focused interviews and job search conditions has led to increases in employment rates.[[37]](#footnote-37) However, lone parents face a disproportionately high rate of sanctions with women constituting 90% of lone parents.[[38]](#footnote-38) Evidence shows that ‘welfare conditionality’ does not move disabled people into work and can have significant impacts on disabled claimants, negatively affecting their finances, wellbeing and health.[[39]](#footnote-39)

 **(19) To what extent has the introduction of Universal Credit reduced the incidence of fraud and error in the welfare system?**

**D. NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WELFARE SYSTEM**

**(20) What use does the national government, as well devolved governments and local governments, make of such new technologies in the context of decision-making in the welfare system? A recent report by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on 'Algorithms in decision-making' (May 2018) concluded that the central government does not currently produce, publish or maintain a list of algorithms it uses for public purposes, despite the fact that some of the new technologies that are employed, for example in welfare fraud and error investigations, can may have major negative human rights implications, especially for the poor. The Special Rapporteur is especially interested in learning more about concrete examples of the use of such new technologies by governments in the welfare system.**

 **(21) What is the relevant regulatory framework for the use by government of such new technologies, especially in the context of the welfare system, and are there any shortcomings In the current legal framework?**

 **(22) Which government agencies and departments are responsible for and have oversight over the use of new technologies by governments in the UK, especially in the context of the welfare system? Are their respective responsibilities clearly defined and delineated and are they able to effectively perform their responsibilities?**

 **(23) What are the relevant policies of the central government vis-a-vis the use of these new technologies by the government, including especially in the context of the welfare system, and do these policies take into account the potential impact of the use of these technologies on the human rights of those living In poverty?**

 **(24) What are the potential human rights issues faced by individuals living in poverty as a result of the use of new technologies In the UK welfare system?**

**E. CHILD POVERTY**

**(25) What is the extent of child poverty in the United Kingdom, and how has it evolved over the last decade?**

Our analysis shows that, as a result of the recent welfare and tax reforms, an extra 1.5 million children will be in poverty by 2022. In lone parent households, child poverty will increase from 37% to over 62%. In Pakistani and disabled households child poverty is expected to rise by 19% and 18.5% respectively.[[40]](#footnote-40)

Child poverty rates[[41]](#footnote-41) have increased since 2012/13, reaching 30% in 2015/16.[[42]](#footnote-42) The Institute for Fiscal Studies predicts that absolute child poverty in the UK will continue to rise. The number of children living in relative poverty is currently at its highest level in a decade, and the majority of children in poverty are in working families.[[43]](#footnote-43)

**(26) What are the implications of child poverty for the rights enumerated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child?**

The implications of child poverty in the UK for the rights as specified in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are significant and affect children’s right to have their best interest taken as a primary consideration, their rights to social security, an adequate standard of living, and to rest and leisure, as specified in Articles 3, 26, 27 and 31 of the CRC.[[44]](#footnote-44)

**(27) What are the main causes of child poverty in the United Kingdom, what have been the main government responses, and how effective have they been?**

See Q25 above for evidence that welfare reform is a cause of child poverty.

A combination of factors present significant challenges to those seeking to escape poverty in the UK such as: low wages, job insecurity (for example, zero-hours contracts), the high cost of housing and childcare, poor health, discrimination and low-level skills.[[45]](#footnote-45)

In 2017, the Government set out its plans to improve the outcomes for children who grow up in workless families.[[46]](#footnote-46) However, it does not include a commitment to reintroduce income poverty-related targets to reduce child poverty, which was removed by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.[[47]](#footnote-47)

**F. ‘BREXIT’**

**(28) What are the potential implications of Brexit for the situation of those living in poverty in the United Kingdom?**

The UK’s withdrawal from the EU could mean a rise in the cost of living, especially in relation to food and fuel.[[48]](#footnote-48) This could have serious implications for the standard of living for those in poverty. In the longer term, economic uncertainty could undermine workers’ rights where economic competitiveness becomes the overriding consideration.

We would encourage the UK Government to outline what its plans are to address the potential difficulties faced by those living in poverty and suggest some mitigations against the impact of Brexit.

**(29) What are the potential implications of Brexit in terms of protecting the human rights of low-income groups and of persons living in poverty?**

EU funds have been used to provide funding to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. We welcome the Government’s commitment to replace EU structural funds with a UK Shared Prosperity Fund, but this does not represent the entirety of EU funding that the UK currently benefits from.[[49]](#footnote-49)

We recommend that the UK Government and devolved governments ensures that any loss of or changes to structural funds, (such as the ESF[[50]](#footnote-50) which helps to bring people furthest from the labour market into work) and other funds (such as the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme[[51]](#footnote-51)), should not undermine the UK’s equality and human rights infrastructure.

**(30) To what extent does government planning for Brexit explicitly address the issues arising under questions 28 and 29 above?**

Government should outline what its plans are to address the difficulties faced by those living in poverty. [[52]](#footnote-52) All the original provisions of the Equality Act 2010, such as the socio-economic duty and protection from combined discrimination, should be brought into force and implemented in England, Scotland and Wales, and the Public Sector Equality Duty should be strengthened. This would maximise the potential of the Equality Act’s protections to heal those divisions in society that became acutely apparent around the EU referendum.[[53]](#footnote-53)

**Word count**, excluding header page, introduction paragraph, questions and footnotes: 2552.

1. Further details available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/measurement-framework-equality-and-human-rights>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Severe material deprivation is measured in the Family Resources Survey by the percentage of respondents identifying that they cannot afford four out of nine listed items considered to be essential. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Food poverty: using evidence from academic studies and from civil society; fuel poverty: using data for England collected by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, for Scotland collected by the Welsh Government and estimates for Wales prepared by the Welsh Government. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Tinson, A., Ayrton, C., Barker, K., Born, T., Aldridge, H. and Kenway, P. (2016), ‘Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2016’. Available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/monitoring-poverty-and-social-exclusion-2016>; Cribb, J., Hood, A., Joyce, R. and Norris Keiller, A. (2017), ‘In-work poverty among families with children’. Institute for Fiscal Studies. Available at: <https://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/comms/r129_ch5.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Equivalised income below 60% of the 2010/11 median income adjusted for inflation. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Data on fuel poverty is collected for England by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and for Scotland by the Scottish Government. The Welsh Government does not collect data on fuel poverty. The UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments do not collect official data on food poverty. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The current weekly support is £37.75. This is currently 52% of income support levels for a single adult. This low level of support, just over £5 a day, is meant to cover essential living needs including all food and drink, clothing, toiletries, household cleaning items, and everyday medication. It also provides a small amount for travel and communication, though these are not considered by the Home Secretary as essential needs.

When it was introduced, the level of support provided was set at 70% of income support levels for adults and 100% for children, to reflect the fact that utilities are included as part of the accommodation arrangements for asylum-seekers. However, in 2008 the Government decided to break the link to income support payments which led to a growing disparity between asylum and income support levels. Home Office, [Report on Review of Cash Allowance Paid to Asylum Seekers: 2017](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673545/Report_on_review_of_cash_allowance_paid_to_asylum_seekers_-_2017_-_final.._.pdf), January 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Equality and Human Rights Commission (2018), ‘Progress on socio-economic rights in Great Britain: Update report on Great Britain’s implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, March 2018’. Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/progress-on-socio-economic-rights-in-great-britain.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Individual country reports titled ‘Is England Fairer?’, ‘Is Scotland Fairer?’ and ‘Is Wales Fairer?’ will be published at the same time. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. See the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, Schedule 1. Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/10/contents>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. For cases heard at the magistrates’ courts, the total volume of applications decreased by 27% between 2013-14 (382,307) and 2016-17 (277,911) in line with a downward trend since 2010-11. For cases heard at the Crown Court, applications decreased by 22% (from 125,008 to 97,453) over the same period. Real-terms expenditure on civil legal aid decreased from £1,125m in 2010-11 to £859m in 2013-14 to £646m in 2016-17. Ministry of Justice [MOJ] (2018) Legal aid statistics: October to December 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/legal-aid-statistics-october-to-december-2017>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Article 2(3)(a) ICCPR. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. The Commission has submitted a full response and recommendations to the Government’s post-implementation review of LASPO, available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/consultation-response-on-post-implementation-review-of-laspo-september-2018_0.doc>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Social Mobility Commission (2017), ‘Social mobility in Great Britain: fifth state of the nation report’, p. 1. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-mobility-in-great-britain-fifth-state-of-the-nation-report>.

All the Social Mobility Commission’s members resigned in December 2017, claiming that they were tasked with an agenda that the Government was not committed to (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/02/alan-milburn-government-not-comitted-to-social-mobility>). [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. End Child Poverty Coalition (2018), ‘More than half of children now living in poverty in some parts of the UK’. Available at: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/more-than-half-of-children-now-living-in-poverty-in-some-parts-of-the-uk/>; Oxfam (2017), ‘Double Trouble – A review of the relationship between UK poverty and economic inequality’. Available at: <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/double-trouble-a-review-of-the-relationship-between-uk-poverty-and-economic-ine-620373>. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. For example, in 2014/15, only 36.7% of disadvantaged pupils in England (those eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years or those who are looked after by the local authority) achieved five A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths, compared with 64.7% of all other children(<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015>). In Wales, only 13% of Gypsy/Roma children in 2013/14 achieved the level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A\*-C in English or Welsh First Language and Mathematics, compared with 53% of all pupils. See EHRC (2015), ‘Is Wales Fairer? The state of equality and human rights 2015’. Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/wales-fairer-2015>. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. As the population of Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils is relatively small these figures should be treated with some caution. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2014-to-2015>. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. In both primary and secondary schools. See <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/permanent-fixed-term-exclusions-from-schools/?lang=en>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. This research is due to be published the week commencing the 18th of November 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Section 1(1) of the Equality Act 2010 provides that ‘[a]n authority to which this section applies must, when making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage’. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2016), ‘Concluding Observations’, para. 23. See also EHRC (2018), ‘Progress on socio-economic rights in Great Britain’. Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/progress-socio-economic-rights-great-britain>. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. See EHRC Report – ‘The cumulative impact of tax and welfare reforms’ (2018). Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. The system of conditionality under universal credit provides many situations where if a claimant in the “all work conditionality group” falls within a certain circumstance then the conditionality imposed on them must or may be reduced. These easements enable the claimant to address temporary barriers to work, such as homelessness, domestic violence and other complex needs. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Further details available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479720/Impact_on_equalities_SRAS_2015_final_25112015.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Further details available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Further details available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/section-31-assessment-hm-treasury/future-fair-financial-decision-making> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. House of Commons Treasury Committee “Autumn Budget 2017” Fifth Report of Session 2017–19. Published Jan 2018. See here: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/treasury-committee/inquiries1/parliament-2017/budget-autumn-2017-17-19/> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. ‘Protected groups’ are defined as individuals and groups sharing one or more of the ‘protected characteristics’ listed in the Equality Act 2010, Section 4: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. For full recommendations see Chapter 10 of our CIA report, available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. For commentary from the UN Economic and Social Committee, please go to: <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E/C.12/GBR/CO/6&Lang=En>)

For commentary from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, please go to: (<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC/C/GBR/CO/5&Lang=En>).

For commentary from the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, please go to: (<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD/C/GBR/CO/1&Lang=En>). [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. It is important to note that the UK Government has not incorporated ICESCR or other human rights treaties it has ratified into domestic law and policy, hence, they are not enforceable under domestic law. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. This will be published in October 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. See Chapter 4 of our 2018 CIA report, ‘The cumulative impact of tax and welfare reforms’ (2018). Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Please see the EHRC report, ‘The impact of welfare reform and welfare to work programmes: an evidence review’, page 145, available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-111-cumulative-impact-assessment-evidence-review.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Further details available at: <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/rolling-out-universal-credit/> [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Please see our literature review, available at <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-111-cumulative-impact-assessment-evidence-review.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. See Chapter 9 of our CIA report for more details - <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. See p 99 of our literature review report - <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-111-cumulative-impact-assessment-evidence-review.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. See p 97 of our literature review report - <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-111-cumulative-impact-assessment-evidence-review.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. See Chapter 7 of our CIA report for more details - <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/cumulative-impact-assessment-report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 replaced binding targets for England to reduce child poverty in the Child Poverty Act 2010 with a new duty on the UK Government to report annually on ‘life chances’ indicators relating to worklessness and educational attainment. The Social Mobility Commission (previously Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission) was responsible for publishing an annual report on progress made in improving social mobility and reducing child poverty in the UK, including against the targets set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. In line with the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016, the child poverty aspect of its remit was removed in 2016 and it was restructured as the Social Mobility Commission. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2017), ‘UK Poverty 2017’. Available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2017>. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Cribb, J., Hood, A., Joyce, R. and Norris Keiller, A. (2017), ‘In-work poverty among families with children’, Institute for Fiscal Studies. Available at: <https://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/comms/r129_ch5.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Whilst the CRC has not been incorporated into UK law, the Scottish and Welsh Governments have enhanced its status in national law (The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 which sets out measures to increase accountability and compliance with the CRC, and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014) which creates a reporting duty on Ministers to set out steps taken to further children’s rights). [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. McBride,J., Smith, A., and Mbala, M. (2018), ‘You end up with nothing’: The experience of being a statistic of ‘in-work poverty’ in the UK, *Work, Employment and Society 2018*, vol. 32, no. 1, p. 211.

Also Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2016), ‘We can solve poverty in the UK – A strategy for governments, businesses, communities and citizens’, p. 11. Available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/we-can-solve-poverty-uk>.

See also EHRC (2016), ‘Children’s Rights in the UK - updated submission’, pp. 18, 19. Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/file/18726/download?token=mXNH6S2D>; and EHRC (2018), ‘Progress on socio-economic rights in Great Britain’. Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/progress-socio-economic-rights-great-britain>. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. DWP (2017), ‘Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families Analysis and Research Pack’. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-lives-helping-workless-families-evidence-base>. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. EHRC (2017), Letter to Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, 20 April 2017. Available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-human-rights-work/monitoring-and-promoting-un-treaties/international-covenant-economic-social>.  [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Evidence given by the Scottish Human Rights Commission to the Scottish Parliament’s Equalities and Human Rights Committee <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/brexit-submission-to-scottish-parliament-3-november-2016.pdf> (p.2) [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Our own research is still in development, and will be published in November; in the meantime the Equality and Diversity Forum’s report is a helpful resource: <http://www.edf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EDF-SHARED-PROSPERITY-FULL-REPORT.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. European Social Fund <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp> [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. Further details available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/rec/index_en.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Our ‘five point plan’ sets out our five priorities to protect and promote equality and human rights as the UK prepares to leave the EU. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/healing-the-divisions-a-positive-vision-for-equality-and-human-rights-in-britain.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. More information on our concerns about Human Rights and Brexit can be found on our [website](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-brexit-work).

We suggest the following links may be of particular interest:

Legal Opinion on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/eu-withdrawal-bill-legal-advice-jason-coppel-qc.pdf>

Trade Bill Briefing: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/parliamentary-briefing-trade-bill-house-of-commons-report-stage-17-july-2018.pdf>

Our response to the Select Committee Inquiry on UK Trade Policy and Scrutiny: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/parliamentary-briefing-international-trade-select-committee-inquiry-on-scrutiny-and-transparency-june-2018.pdf>

EU Withdrawal Bill Briefings: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-brexit-work> [↑](#footnote-ref-53)