

SCORSS

**SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN ON RIGHTS TO
SOCIAL SECURITY (SCORSS)**

**SCOTTISH BUDGET BRIEFING
December 2022**

About us

The Scottish Campaign on Rights to Social Security (SCoRSS) is a coalition of organisations who advocate for a reformed social security system that reflects the five principles set out in our Principles for Change. SCoRSS (previously the Scottish Campaign on Welfare Reform) encompasses over 40 organisations from key third sector organisations, charities, faith groups, and unions. Our members have a diverse range of experience and expertise and a strong understanding of social security and its impact on the people and communities we work with.

Since 2006, SCoRSS has highlighted the shared concerns of a diverse coalition of organisations in Scotland about the UK Government's welfare reform proposals. Since then, the coalition has informed debates on changes to both UK and Scottish government policy and has influenced the creation of Scotland's first social security system.

Our calls for the 2023/24 Scottish budget

- **Increase social security payment rates to a level where no one is left in poverty, and all have sufficient income to lead a dignified life.**
- **Make respect for human rights and dignity the cornerstone of UK and Scottish social security.**
- **Invest in independent advocacy and advice to help secure people's right to social security**
- **Make social security work for Scotland**
- **Financial security for women who experience domestic abuse**

Increase social security payment rates to a level where no one is left in poverty, and all have sufficient income to lead a dignified life.

Use the Scottish child payment to prevent child poverty by ensuring the payment retains its real-terms value, and provides sufficient support for families by:

- increasing the level of payment, in April 2023, by at least the rate of inflation; and
- mitigating the two-child limit and young parent penalty through additional payments of the Scottish child payment.

Increase the other low-income benefits delivered by Social Security Scotland in April 2023, by at least the rate of inflation to ensure they retain their real-terms value.

Improve financial support for carers by doubling the carer's allowance supplement for 2023/24

Boost disability assistance to ensure people living with a disability or health condition receive adequate financial support by:

- adopting a human rights budgeting approach to calculate an adequate rate for disability assistance; and ensuring there is sufficient resource to pay, and
- administering the increased demand for support that is anticipated by the creating of a social security system that treats people with dignity and respect.

Make respect for human rights and dignity the cornerstone of UK and Scottish social security.

The Scottish Government must fully adopt a Human Rights Budgeting approach and strengthen its approach to gender budget analysis to ensure that resources are used to realise people's rights and address women's inequality, and

Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) and Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIA) should be a core element of budget decisions, and the outcome of the assessment shape the allocation of resources.

Invest in independent advocacy and advice to help secure people's right to social security

Ensure there is sufficient investment in advice and advocacy provision to ensure everyone that needs support can access appropriate support; and

Invest in training and long-term funding of advice provision to ensure there are sufficient trained and experienced advisors and advocates to provide the support that is needed.

Make social security work for Scotland

Improve the Scottish Welfare Fund to ensure accessible, timely and adequate support by:

- increasing funding for the SWF to ensure there is sufficient resources to meet the demand; and
- increasing funding of the administration and promotion of the fund.

Mitigate the UK benefit cap: ensure sufficient resources and accountability to deliver the welcome commitment to mitigate the UK benefit cap 'as fully as possible'. The Scottish Government must ensure as few children as possible in Scotland suffer from the policy.

Financial security for women who experience domestic abuse

We welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to explore options for a dedicated support fund, or entitlements with clear guidance and capable of delivering short-term recurring payments, to support women leaving an abusive partner. This should include essential crisis costs to enable a woman to leave and to bridge the gap between leaving and the first Universal Credit payment. It is now vital that this budget allocates sufficient resources to implement and administer this commitment, particularly in light of risks associated with the cost of living crisis.

SCORSS members include:

Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland
Citizens Advice Scotland
Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland
(the ALLIANCE)
One Parent Families Scotland
The Poverty Alliance
Adrian Sinfield
Advocard
Camphill Scotland
Carers Trust Scotland
CEMVO Scotland
Children 1st
Children in Scotland
Coalition of Care and Support Providers
in Scotland
Dalkeith Citizens Advice Bureau
Energy Action Scotland (EAS)
Engender
Epilepsy Connections
Glasgow Council for the Voluntary
Sector
Glasgow Disability Alliance

Hazel Kennedy
Inclusion Scotland
Independent Age UK
MS Society Scotland
National Association of Welfare Rights
Advisers
Oxfam Scotland
Prof Adrian Sinfield
Save the Children in Scotland
Scottish Association of Mental Health
Scottish Commission for People with
Learning Disabilities
Scottish Drugs Forum
Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Scottish Refugee Council
Scottish Women's Aid
Scottish Women's Convention
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
Shelter Scotland
The Action Group
Turning Point Scotland

More Information:

To join us, find out more or read our latest briefings visit:
cpag.org.uk/scotland/policy-campaigns/SCORSS

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