Is Britain Fairer?

Our report about how fair life is for people in England, Scotland and Wales
About us

We are called the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

We work to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and gets their human rights.

Human rights are rights that everyone has. Like the right to work, be safe and have a family.

About this report

This report is about how fair life is for people in England, Scotland and Wales.

Together these countries are called Britain.
We looked at:

- How fair life is for everyone in Britain
- If people are getting their human rights
- What needs to change.

Our last report was in 2015.

We looked at what has happened since then.

What we found out

1. Some things have got better

Some things have got better for some people.
For example, we found that:

- Some children are doing better at school than before

- More women, black people and Pakistani people are in work

- More women are in jobs that pay more

- More people have voted in elections.

For example, 16 and 17 year olds can now vote in Scotland.

Voting is when you choose who to run your local area and country.
2. Life is still unfair for many people

Money

Many people are still poor.

This includes people who need more support, like disabled people.

More children are poor.

The rules about tax and benefits have changed.

This is money that people pay to the government or get from the government.

The new rules have made life worse for some groups of people.

For example, disabled people, women and people who don’t earn much.
Education

Some groups of children are not doing as well at school.

For example, children from poorer families.

Disabled people

Life has got worse for many disabled people.

For example, some people can’t work because of their disability.

But they have less money from the government to live on.

Disabled people who do work often earn less money.
Many disabled children are not getting the education they need.

For example, many disabled children learn in different schools and classrooms to children who are not disabled.

Many disabled people have worse health than other people.

It is hard for many disabled people to find somewhere good to live.

All of this can stop disabled people having a good life.
Women

Women often work in jobs that pay less money.

And bad things still happen to many women at work.

For example, women may be bullied.

Or they may be treated unfairly because they are having a baby.

People from some ethnic groups

Your ethnic group is about things like where you and your family are from and the language you speak.

Life is harder for people from some ethnic groups.

For example, Black African, Bangladeshi and Pakistani people are more likely to be poor.
People from some ethnic groups are more likely to:

- Have nowhere to live
- Have bad health
- Be in prison.

**Crime, police, courts and prisons**

Some things have got worse since 2015.

For example, it is harder for people to get help to go to court if they have been treated unfairly.

There are too many people in some prisons in England and Wales.
There has been lots of crime where:

- People are hurt or treated badly because of something about them.

  For example, because they are disabled or from a certain religion.

  This is called hate crime.

- Someone tries to force someone else to do sexual things when they don’t want to.

- Someone keeps hurting someone they are in a relationship with or someone in their family.

Crimes like this can happen to some people more than others.

For example, women and disabled people.
What should happen next

Below are some of the main things we want to happen next.

We will work with governments and other people to help make them happen.

The government should make a new plan about how to stop children being poor.

The government should look at the new rules about tax, benefits and help to go to court.

The government should:

- See how fair the rules are for different people

- Use this information to make things fairer for all groups of people.
The government should make life better for disabled people.

For example, the government should make sure that:

- Disabled children can learn in the same classrooms as other children
- Many more disabled people can get and keep a job.

More must be done to make life fairer for women.

For example:

- Schools should do more to stop girls being hurt or treated badly.

- There is a plan in Europe about how to stop violence against woman.

The government should promise to do what the plan says.

- Companies should make it easy for women to change the days and hours they work if they need to.
More should be done to stop violence and people hurting themselves in prison.

To find out more

For questions about this report email: correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com

You can also look on our website at: www.equalityhumanrights.com

For advice about being treated fairly you can speak to the Equality Advisory and Support Service.

This is free.

Phone 0808 800 0082
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