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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Just Fair: The UN Special Rapporteur's report is a reminder that poverty is not only a moral and political issue, it is also a legal one**

Just Fair welcomes the independent evidence-gathering mission led by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, which finishes today.

Alston has echoed critically important issues, some of which were highlighted in Just Fair's written [submission](#), supported by 15 other groups: Unison, Women's Budget Group, Inclusion London, Sustain Alliance's Right to Food Project, The Equality Trust, Race on the Agenda, Amnesty International UK, York Human Rights City Network, Surviving Economic Abuse, Mind, Generation Rent, British Institute of Human Rights, Latin American Women's Rights Service, and Equality and Diversity Forum.

Jamie Burton, Just Fair Chair, said:

*"The Special Rapporteur's visit reminds us that poverty is not only a moral and political issue, it is also a legal one. His findings, which are based on the evidence, confirm once again that recent government policy has hit the poorest hardest and made us more unequal than we've been for decades. The human story behind these findings is that many people's lives have been blighted by poverty unnecessarily and we are divided as a nation like never before. Continued non-compliance with our legal obligations will only make this worse."*

Suggested shorter version:

*"The Special Rapporteur's findings are clear. We are failing to meet our international legal obligations and many people's lives are being blighted by poverty unnecessarily as a result. Continued non-compliance will only make us less equal and more divided. It is time that we took this seriously."*

#### **About us:**

Just Fair is a human rights NGO that monitors and campaigns for economic and social rights in the UK. The organisation has been heavily involved in Philip Alston's UK mission. In partnership with Community Links, Just Fair organised an open mic event in Newham, East London, with grassroots activists and people with direct experience of living in poverty. Together with the Human Rights Lawyers Association, Just Fair organised Alston's public talk at Doughty Street Chambers, Central London. And in partnership with Newcastle University, Just Fair also facilitated gatherings with the Special Rapporteur in the North East of England.

#### **Recent op-eds from Just Fair:**

[www.justfair.org.uk](http://www.justfair.org.uk)

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Imogen Richmond-Bishop, "[Why the UK Visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights Should be a Wake Up Call](#)", *Rights Info*, 5 November.

Koldo Casla, "[Reality of poverty in Newcastle: UN examines effect of austerity](#)", *The Conversation*, 5 November.

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