



Economic, social and cultural rights - the state of play

November 2023

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Our report - Jan 2023

- Independent report to UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Over 70 submissions of evidence
- ➔ 5 years on from Philip Alston's visit to the UK
- people in England and Wales enjoy **vastly different levels** of realisation of rights.
- **cost-of-living crisis is a catastrophe** for many.
- crises are **disproportionately impacting** specific groups.
- **in-work poverty** on the increase.
- civil society has **run out of ways** to paper over cracks.

Evidence in our report told us

- **1 in 4 children** growing up in poverty, in Wales rises to 34%.
- **99% households** in north-east of England subject to the benefit cap are families with children.
- **6 out of 10 people** with learning disabilities die before 65.
- Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller children have **lowest education attainment** at all stages of compulsory education.
- **85% of minority ethnic pupils** participating in workshops in Wales reported experiencing racism in school or the community.
- **Unemployment of Black young people was 41.6%**, three times that of unemployment of white young people at peak of the pandemic.
- **14% of Trans respondents** to the Trans Lives Survey reported being refused care because they were Trans.

There can be financial benefits

Introducing the right to adequate housing in Wales would generate **£11.5 billion** in benefits while costing **£5 billion**. This includes:

- £5.5 billion improved wellbeing
- £2 billion cost savings to local authorities
- £1 billion savings to NHS Wales
- £1 billion savings to the criminal justice system
- £1 billion additional economic activity
- £1 billion value of new housing

It's popular with the public

- Polling funded by [Amnesty International UK](#) and [Liberty](#)
- Conducted October 2023
- The Opinium Omnibus is an online survey of 2,000 UK adults (18 and over). Results are weighted to be representative of UK voters.
- **Economic, social and cultural rights are overwhelmingly popular with the UK public.**
- **When we break down the different elements of rights contained within the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, there is very little opposition.**

It's popular with the public

Polling - work

Do you think people in the UK should have the right to the following?

- Choose their job or move to a new job – **92% yes**
- Be and feel safe at work - **95% yes**
- Be paid a fair wage at work – **95% yes**
- Be treated equally to others at work – **93% yes**
- Rest days and holidays from work - **92% yes**
- Join a trade union - **86% yes**
- Strike to fight for fair pay and working conditions – **77% yes**
- Receive help from the government to if they cannot work because of illness, maternity, or disability – **93% yes**

It's popular with the public

Polling - social security, standard of living, health and education

Do you think people in the UK should have the right to the following?

- Financial protection through a social security system – **83% yes**
- Adequate food for them and their families – **90% yes**
- A comfortable and secure home - **88% yes**
- Adequate clothing for them and their families – **88% yes**
- Access to good quality physical and mental health services and treatment when needed – **92% yes**
- B protected from preventable disease and ill health – **91% yes**
- Support for the family when needed e.g., social care – **89% yes**
- Quality education for themselves and their children – **92% yes**



Thank you

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