

LIBERTY

INDEPENDENT
**FOOD AID
NETWORK**

—
**QUAKER
SOCIAL
ACTION**
—

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL** 

**CHILD
POVERTY
ACTION
GROUP**

**NEW
ECONOMICS
FOUNDATION**

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH**

WSN
WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK

**Share
The World's
Resources**

**Scottish
Independent
Advocacy
Alliance**

WoRC
Work Rights Centre

VOICES
ADFCAD
Welsh Unpaid Care

**Manchester
and Salford
Urban Alliance**

asylum matters

SBC

**Human Rights
Consortium
Scotland**

**RESISTANCE
Kitchen**
FIGHT POVERTY - FIGHT INJUSTICE
WWW.RESISTANCEKITCHEN.CO.UK

Shf Shared
Health
Foundation.

**citizens
advice
scotland**

sccan

**ATD
FOURTH WORLD**

posi+ivemoney

**Equality
Network**

**Cymru
Global** | Yr enw newydd
The new name for
WCIA

**WOMEN'S
PLATFORM**

**Human Rights
Consortium Cymru**
Cwmnïau Hysbïus
Dynol Cymru

CONFIDENTIAL

**HEALTH ACTION
RESEARCH GROUP**
because prevention is better than cure

**rené
cassin**
the jewish voice for human rights

justfair

**Debt
Justice**

**citizens
advice** Newcastle

EQUALITY TRUST

**CENTER for
ECONOMIC and
SOCIAL RIGHTS**

IER
Institute of
Employment
Rights

The SocialBrokers

THE SH/FT
BY CH. JACQUES

**BIG
ISSUE**

PPR
PPROJECT.ORG
ACCOUNTABILITY
EQUALITY
PARTICIPATION

UNISON
the public service union

unfold
Empowerment
through mentoring

4in10

Justlife

**BAKERS
FOOD
AND ALLIED
WORKERS
UNION** BFAWU
STENKIP - KUNJ

**Home
is where
you feel
you
belong**

**Canolfan
Gyfreithiol
y Plant
Cymru** | Children's
Legal
Centre
Wales

nutriri 

tai pawb
promoting equality in housing
hybu cydraddoldeb ym maes tai

**THE
Maggie
PROJECT**

NI Legal

**Children's Rights
Alliance for England**
Part of Just for Kids Law

Autistic Parents UK

nutriri 

LASSN
Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network

Food Ethics Council

EQUITY

**Generation
Rent**

**TRINITY
ROOMS**
COMMUNITY HUB

ALLIANCE
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
AT ANCT SCOTLAND
people at the centre

**the POVERTY
ALLIANCE**
WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT POVERTY

Difference
Changing perceptions of disability

**ART.27
SCOTLAND**

**Greater
Manchester
Coalition
of Disabled
People**

NIRWN

**WOMEN'S
REGIONAL
CONSORTIUM**

**Women's Regional
Consortium**

**Compassion
in Politics**

**Z2K
Fighting
poverty**

THRIVE
BUILDING BETTER LIVES

Just Fair
c/o Doughty Street Chambers
54 Doughty Street
London WC1N 2LS

Rt Hon Mr David Lammy MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20 May 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

Today marks fifty years since the United Kingdom ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([ICESCR](#)), committing to uphold rights including housing, food, health, education, social security and decent work.

Ratification was never intended to be the end point. The next step is incorporation - ensuring these rights are protected in domestic law and made real in people's everyday lives. Fifty years on, it is time for the UK Government to act.

Economic, social and cultural rights are the foundations we all need to live well: a safe home, enough to eat, healthcare when we need it, education, and support in hard times. These are not abstract ideals. They are what make dignity and security possible and enable people to take part in economic, social and civic life, supporting a fairer and more just society.

At a time of rising inequality and growing insecurity, when communities are too often divided and scapegoated, a rights based approach offers a different way forward. Incorporating economic, social and cultural rights into law will support efforts to bring people together around common needs and shared solutions, strengthen trust in the systems we all rely on, and counter narratives that pit people against one another. Failure to act only leaves more space for division to grow.

Despite the UK's binding international commitments, these rights remain insufficiently protected in domestic law. In practice, this means millions of people are unable to rely on the basics - living in unaffordable or unsafe housing, struggling to access food, or going without the support they need.

In 2025, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights published its most [detailed assessment](#) yet of the UK's record on these rights. It sets out a stark picture and includes over 90 recommendations, once again urging the UK to incorporate economic, social and cultural rights into domestic law.

Fifty years after ratification, delay is no longer acceptable. The continued failure to incorporate these rights has real and damaging consequences for millions of people across the UK.

We call on the UK Government to commit to a clear and time bound process to incorporate economic, social and cultural rights into UK law and policy - so that the foundations of a good life are something everyone can rely on.

Yours sincerely,

Just Fair
Amnesty International UK
Art27 Scotland
Asylum Matters
ATD Fourth World
Autistic Parents UK
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU)
Big Issue
Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland (CFoIS)
Castlemilk Housing and Human Rights Lived Experience Board
Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
Child Poverty Action Group
Children's Rights Alliance for England
Citizens Advice Newcastle
Citizens Advice Scotland
Compassion in Politics
Cymru Global (formerly the Welsh Centre for International Affairs)
Dandelion Solidarity
Debt Justice
Difference North East
Economic Justice Monitor
Equality Network
Equality Trust
Equity
FiLiA
Food Ethics Council
Friends, Families and Travellers
Generation Rent
Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People
Growing Rights Instead of Poverty Partnership (GRIPP)
Health Action Research Group
Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Human Rights Consortium Cymru
Human Rights Consortium Scotland
Human Rights Watch
Humanists UK
Independent Food Aid Network

Institute of Employment Rights
Justlife Foundation
Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network
Liberty
Mlegal
New Economics Foundation
Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN)
Participation and the Practice of Rights
Positive Money
Quaker Social Action
René Cassin
Resistance Kitchen
Resolve Poverty
Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN)
Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Share The World's Resources
Shared Health Foundation
SMK Law
Social Benefits Consortium CIC
Stories of Hope and Home
Tai Pawb
Taxpayers Against Poverty
The Magpie Project
The Poverty Alliance
The Shift
The Social Brokers
The United Reformed Church, Manchester & Salford
Thrive
Trinity Rooms (run by Stroud Earth Community)
Unfold
UNISON - the public service union
VCSE Nutriri
Voices Adfocad
Women's Platform
Women's Regional Consortium, Northern Ireland
Women's Support Network, Northern Ireland
Work Rights Centre
Z2K
4in10 London's Child Poverty Network