

THE EQUALITY TRUST

The latest monthly round-up of research and news around pay & income inequality.

Most of the information in this email was previously reported via our twitterfeed (@equalitytrust).

At the beginning of April, The Equality Trust and many of our supporters were busily preparing for important elections across the country, encouraging council and Mayoral candidates to commit to the '[Fairness Four](#)' – simple asks to improve the quality of life in our local areas. Just a fortnight later, the Prime Minister called a General Election.

In response, we are proud to present our [Manifesto for a Fairer Society](#), a set of achievable policies that all political parties should commit to, to secure fair work, fair tax, fair chances and a fair deal for all of us. Please take it to hustings and local and national events, discuss it with candidates on your doorstep, and help us put inequality centre-stage at this election.

Though MPs are now back in their constituencies fighting for your votes, this month Westminster showed it is listening on excessive pay ratios. It was fantastic to see the Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee cite our [Pay Tracker](#) in its [corporate governance report](#) and recommend pay ratio reporting. Our Executive Director Dr Wanda Wyporska wrote about extreme pay inequality for the [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Inclusive Growth](#), and taking the message to viewers, Jeremy Corbyn discussed our pay ratio figures on [The Andrew Marr Show](#).

This level of interest means our [pay ratios petition](#) is all the more vital in preparation for the new Parliament, to help us push the Government to hit the ground running on corporate governance reforms. Please continue to share the [petition](#) widely so we can demonstrate the strength of support for fairer workplaces.

We also continued our work to highlight the scale of inequality, using new figures to show how Britain's poorest households are still paying a greater proportion of their income in [taxes](#) than the richest. Our work was featured in the [Independent](#), the [Daily Mirror](#), the [Huffington Post](#) and the [Guardian](#), strengthening the case for reforms to our regressive and outdated council tax system.

In case you missed it, watch this superb performance on [BBC's Big Questions](#) by one of our co-founders and trustees Professor Kate Pickett, taking on welfare myths and making the case for properly funded health and social care.

Catch up on April's blogs:

- [Pay Ratios: Let's Keep The Pressure On](#)
- [Local Elections 2017: Take Action With The Fairness Four](#)
- [Another World Already Exists: The Mondragon Example](#)
- [General Election 2017: Time For Equality](#)
- [Business has a role in tackling inequality](#)

Finally, since launching the scheme in March, we are delighted to have our first two affiliates, [Pay Compare](#) and [UNISON Oxford Brookes](#), with more in the pipeline. Please [visit here](#) to find out how to join them.

LATEST LOCAL GROUP NEWS

From watching the detectives in London to dealing with erudite graffiti in Cambridge the local groups have had another active and varied month – [more details here...](#)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORTS

The richest Americans live up to 15 years longer than poorest, according to new studies in [The Lancet](#).

Analysis for the [Guardian](#) showed how the 2-child limit on welfare will push a quarter of a million more kids into poverty.

Disabled people are more than twice as likely to be living in food poverty as other citizens, found the [EHRC](#).

A [cross-party](#) group of MPs and peers reported that three million children are at risk of hunger and malnourishment during school holidays.

The [Trussell Trust](#) calculated it has given out 1.2 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis in 2016-17.

The [Universal Credit](#) taper rate was officially cut, but [as we have shown](#), we need a return to the original design to let the poorest workers keep more of their earnings.

INEQUALITY IN THE NEWS

New figures showed that over [900 carers](#) leave their job every day. We can't be surprised by this when they are so desperately undervalued.

Research revealed that [housing inheritance](#) will benefit younger generations selectively, with less than a quarter of under-45s likely to gain.

[Shelter](#) warned that housing problems are causing mental ill health.

BEST INEQUALITY READS

In their blog on [Food Bank Britain](#), Maddy Power and Professors Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson argued 'the state is relinquishing its responsibility for preventing hunger'.

[Ioan Marc Jones](#) wrote about social mobility and the underappreciated point that 'for the gifted poor to rise, the less gifted rich must fall.'

As we keep saying, inequality is not inevitable. This excellent article by economist [Kate Raworth](#) sets out the false assumptions of old economics and argues for a new sustainable and redistributive model.

We rely on donations to keep our campaign going. Please support our work by [signing up as a regular supporter or by making a one off contribution](#). You can also support our work by forwarding this bulletin to people you know who might be interested. Thank you!