

THE EQUALITY TRUST

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

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

Pay has been firmly in the spotlight this month, with new Living Wage rates announced yesterday that will make a huge difference to worker wellbeing and productivity in businesses that volunteer to pay the higher rate. We warmly welcome the annual rise, but are still frustrated that [less than a third of FTSE 100 companies](#) are Living Wage accredited while CEO rewards just keep climbing.

[Official figures](#) last week brought the excellent news that the earnings gap has shrunk thanks to the new higher minimum wage, proving that [inequality is not inevitable](#). However, we had to comment on the finding that [1 in 5 employees](#) are still low-paid, a figure that has changed worryingly little in the past twenty years.

It's all very well discussing pay packets, but if you lost your job tomorrow, how long could you '[walk the tightrope](#)'? We made a splash with our [brand new briefing note](#) on household savings and debt inequality, featured in the [Independent](#), the [Daily Mail](#), the [Daily Express](#), [twice](#) in [The Sun](#) and in regional and local news up and down the country. It revealed that over six and a half million households are already in debt, or face the prospect of falling into debt within a month of losing their jobs. Please read and share it widely with your friends and family.

We commented on a wide range of issues throughout October, including a [World Bank report](#) that said inequality reduction is vital, academic studies showing how [poverty damages child development](#), and the failures of the so-called '[Troubled Families](#)' programme. We continued to engage with politicians, giving our thoughts on the Prime Minister's [party conference](#) speech and reflecting on her [first 100 days](#) in office, as well as supplying [evidence on corporate governance](#) to an inquiry by an MPs' committee.

Listen to our Executive Director Dr Wanda Wyporska on [BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze](#) speaking out against inequality, and for migrants, and our Media and Communications Manager discussing why [pay transparency is vital](#) (from 1hr 36m). Finally, why not catch up on our October blogs?

- [Innocent Until Proven Guilty? Not if you're poor...](#)
- [Rising from the ASHEs](#)
- [Guest blog from director Katharine Round: The Divide 6 Months On](#)
- [A New Politics for Health: How you can help develop the Birmingham Health Charter](#)

Keep your eyes peeled in November for our analysis of the Autumn Statement, and don't forget to register for [Inequality Today 2016](#) with Ed Miliband and Molly Scott Cato – it's set to be a fantastic afternoon!

LATEST LOCAL GROUP NEWS

It's been a very busy month for the groups with activity from Glasgow to Hampshire and from Cambridge to South Wales – and many points in between. [Find out more here...](#)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORTS

The [Living Wage Foundation](#) announced the new voluntary Living Wage rate of £8.45, and £9.75 in London.

[Resolution Foundation](#) calculated that 21 per cent of full time employees earn below two thirds of the median weekly pay.

Polling for [Oxfam](#) showed that 76% of the public believe businesses have a responsibility to reduce pay ratios between employees, and 64% would back a maximum ratio of 20:1.

Research by [Universities UK](#) showed that socioeconomic disadvantage affects access to and performance at higher education.

Benefit sanctions are forcing people to use [food banks](#), found Oxford University.

INEQUALITY IN THE NEWS

[Shelter](#) warned that more than four in 10 homes in Britain do not reach acceptable standards.

[Legal aid cuts](#) have left the 'most vulnerable people' unable to pursue justice.

Fewer than half of [grammar schools](#) give poor pupils priority in allocating places.

[Flood defences](#) are 'skewed towards wealthy families and regions'.

An employment court ruled that [Uber](#) must pay its drivers the minimum wage and holiday pay; they are not self-employed.

BEST INEQUALITY READS

The Child Poverty Action Group warned that child poverty is set to rise enormously. [Alison Garnham](#) wrote about the educational and social opportunities that children in poor families miss out on.

What is the [role of co-ops](#) in addressing inequality? This is a great summary of Joseph Stiglitz's comments at the International Summit of Cooperatives.

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!