

# 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).

This month saw the release of official statistics on household disposable incomes, a key measure of inequality. Unfortunately, it wasn't good news, as figures showed that inequality [slightly increased](#) between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Though small, this rise shows how unsuccessful the Government has been at tackling our extreme inequality. Given these figures do not effectively capture the incomes of the richest 1%, the picture could in fact be even worse, so it's clear there is a lot more work to be done.

Other news has been more positive, however. For those of us alarmed by the Government's plans to scrap the income measure of child poverty, February has been somewhat of a rollercoaster. Following defeat in the Lords, when peers voted to retain the relative income measure, a majority of MPs then voted to keep it out of the legislation. Happily, the Government later reconsidered, and will now [continue to measure](#) the number of families on low incomes.

Our work has also been recognised this month, with our research on [transport inequality](#) cited by the Co-Operative Party as it launched its '[People's Bus' campaign](#). In the media, a [Daily Telegraph](#) article on how inequality affects the middle classes directed readers towards the graphs on our website illustrating the [scale of inequality](#) in the UK. And in the last week, we had a letter published in [The Economist](#) explaining why reducing the withdrawal rate in Universal Credit is better than raising the income tax personal allowance.

We also blogged on:

- [The Aspiration Tax: How our social security system holds back low-paid workers](#)
- [Withdrawal Symptoms: Why tax cuts aren't the best way to incentivise work](#)
- [Unity is Strength: how trade unions reduce inequality](#)
- [The Bare Minimum: How Universal Credit Must Change to Support Low Income Workers](#)
- [Mind the Gap to Mend the Mind](#)
- [House of Pain: UK Household Inequality Might Be Even Worse Than It Looks](#)
- [Local Elections 2016: Your Local Politicians Can Tackle Inequality And Poverty](#)

If you were disappointed not to be attending our fully-booked [event](#) on health inequalities, don't worry. Look out this month for a summary of the discussion between Sir Michael Marmot and Spirit Level authors Professors Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson on what governments can do to reduce the health gap.

## LATEST LOCAL GROUP NEWS

[Read all about](#) the Living Wage successes of the **Colchester** and **Cumbria** groups in this month's bulletin as well as the innovative work of **The Cambridge Commons** group – and the upcoming final report of the London Fairness Commission (co-sponsored by **My Fair London**).

If you want to get involved in local equality campaigning, just contact Bill Kerry at [bill.kerry@equalitytrust.org.uk](mailto:bill.kerry@equalitytrust.org.uk) and he will be happy to help.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORTS

A study by Standard and Poor's warned that the [Bank of England's](#) recovery policies have increased inequality.

[Resolution Foundation](#) research showed that within a decade, nine out of 10 Britons on modest incomes under the age of 35 will not be able to afford home ownership.

English children rank near the bottom in an international happiness table of 16 countries, said a report from [Children's Worlds](#).

British public life is still dominated by privately educated elite, according to new figures from the [Sutton Trust](#).

New evidence from [academic research](#) directly links social inequality with public support for the UK's increasingly harsh criminal justice policies. The Equality Trust is also cited.

The conclusion of our new report on [Universal Credit](#) was backed up by [new research](#) which finds losing benefits hurts more than paying taxes.

## INEQUALITY IN THE NEWS

The [University and College Union](#) revealed the average university boss's salary has hit £272,000: a 14% rise in 5 years, and almost ten times average pay.

The percentage of poorer students accepted to [Oxbridge](#) has fallen, showed official figures.

The [Children's Society](#) warned that plans to freeze benefits for four years will hit 7 million children.

Official estimates suggest [rough sleeping](#) in England has doubled since 2010, arguably a symptom of our unequal society.

## **BEST INEQUALITY READS**

[Frances Ryan](#) asked what sort of society we are living in when not just food banks, but clothes banks, are increasingly needed to help families survive.

[Owen Jones](#) responded to the [Sutton Trust](#)'s research on the dominance of private school elites, concluding, 'Inequality runs through our society like a stick of rock.'

*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!*