



Reading List
**Equality, Human Rights,
Poverty, Welfare and
Third Sector**

Date: **May 2016**



National Assembly for Wales
Research Service

The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Equality, Human Rights, Poverty, Welfare and the Third Sector

Equality and Human Rights

The following Research Service blog posts are a good place to start in exploring the current state of equality and human rights in Wales. There are specific posts on topical issues such as domestic abuse, age discrimination, refugees, women in public life, hate crime and human trafficking.

Equality

- **Is Wales fairer? The state of equality and human rights**, December 2015.
- **A quick guide to the public sector equality duties**, May 2013.
- **How can Wales maximise the contribution of women to the economy**, June 2015.
- **International Women’s Day 2016**, March 2016.
- **Women in public life**, October 2013.
- **A world obsessed with age and stereotypical views of older people?** January 2015.

Human Rights

- **How will the Syrian refugee crisis affect Wales?** September 2015.
- **The Violence Against Women Act – one year on**, June 2015.
- **Violence Against Women Act – how the education provisions evolved**, March 2015.
- **Violence against women – what is being done in Wales?**, February 2014.
- **What is hate crime?**, May 2014.
- **Hidden in plain sight – human trafficking in Wales**, November 2013.
- **An important time for children’s rights in Wales**, November 2015.
- **Is the Welsh Government delivering on children and young people’s rights**, June 2015.

The Welsh Government has a range of strategies on equality and human rights, including:

- **Strategic Equality Plan and objectives for 2016-20** .
- **Refugee and asylum seeker delivery plan (2016 update)**.
- **Violence against women – public sector guidance** and information on the **National Violence Against Women Adviser**.
- **Anti-slavery plan and annual reports**.
- **Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents: A Framework for Action**.
- **Transgender Action Plan**.
- **Travelling to a better future – gypsy and traveler action plan (March 2016 update)**.
- **Framework for Action on Independent Living for disabled people**.

- Increasing diversity in public appointments.
- Community cohesion delivery plan 2016-17 and progress reports.

Legislation

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.
- Welsh specific public sector equality duties.
- Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

Welsh Government Equality and Human Rights Forums and Funds

- Budget Advisory Group on Equality (BAGE).
- Equality and inclusion grant 2014-17 – organisations funded.
- Faith Communities Forum – forum between Welsh Government and faith groups.
- Wales Race Forum.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the equality regulator for Great Britain. The Commission in Wales undertakes a programme of work including research, advising the Assembly and Welsh Government and using its legal powers to improve access to justice.

The Commission's research includes:

- **Is Wales Fairer? 2015.**
- **An anatomy of economic inequality in Wales** (2014), which is a comprehensive, academic review of inequality data in Wales.
- **Human rights in Wales.**
- The Commission also publishes **guidance** and **monitoring reports** on the public sector equality duties in Wales.

In addition, the House of Common's Library has published a briefing on **The UN Inquiry into the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the UK.**

Children's Rights

- The **Children's Rights in Wales** website (produced by Save the Children) is designed to help local practitioners, policy makers, managers and strategists develop their understanding of children's rights and how to adopt a children's rights perspective to their work.
- The **Children's Commissioner's website** also has a range of information and guidance on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Poverty

Research Service publications on poverty:

- **How Wales tackled poverty in 2015**, December 2015.
- **Poverty and inequality in Wales – what's changed?** October 2015.
- **Financial inclusion in Wales – what does the Welsh Government have in store?** January 2015.

- **Research Note on Flying Start**, March 2014 (PDF 231KB).
- **Fuel poverty and energy efficiency schemes**, April 2015.
- **Culture and poverty: can culture play a stronger role in delivering social justice in Wales?**, November 2014.
- **Child Poverty update: UK report 'shows that Britain is on the brink of becoming a permanently divided nation'**, October 2014.

Welsh Government Strategies, Documents and Webpages

- **Building resilient communities: Taking forward the tackling poverty action plan and annual reports.**
- **Programme for Government 2011-16 – progress report on tackling poverty.**
- **Communities First.**
- **Advice services – information and advice quality framework for Wales.**
- **Financial inclusion strategy for Wales 2016.**
- **Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2015.**

The Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee of the Fourth Assembly undertook a programme of work on poverty in Wales in 2015.

The **first report** was published in May 2015, and the documents relating to the **second part** of the inquiry in January 2016 are on the committee's webpages.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) is a UK-wide social policy and research charity, and works with the Wales-based Bevan Foundation on poverty issues in Wales. The two organisations have published these recent papers on poverty in Wales

- **Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Wales**, September 2015.
- **Homelessness Monitor: Wales 2015.**
- **Towards a Wales free from poverty: emerging ideas, August 2015.**

The Public Policy Institute for Wales's (PPIW) 'What works in tackling poverty' project has produced a number of research reports:

- **Rethinking the Work Programme in Wales.**
- **Quantifying the benefits of early intervention in Wales: A Feasibility Study.**
- **The impact of debt on deprived communities and households.**
- **Approaches to tackling homelessness.**
- **The Impact of Welfare Reforms on Housing Policy in Wales – A Rapid Evidence Review.**

Welfare

Welfare is not a devolved issue but it has had a huge impact on the population of Wales. The UK Government website has a useful **collection of documents** on welfare reform.

The House of Commons Library has also published a number of briefings on welfare, including:

- **Impact of the under-occupation deduction from Housing Benefit (social rented housing).**
- **The Benefit Cap.**
- **Statistics on migrants and benefits.**
- **Universal Credit: changes from April 2016.**

The Research Service blog post on **The Budget – what it means for welfare in Wales** from July 2015 provides a summary of the main changes to the welfare system as a result of the 2015 budget.

Other Useful Reports

- The Bevan Foundation, **Can welfare work for Wales – baseline report**, November 2015.
- Welsh Government, **Analysing the impact of welfare reform in Wales – research paper series.**
- Public Accounts Committee of the Fourth Assembly, **Responding to Welfare Reform in Wales**, July 2015.
- Wales Audit Office, **Managing the Impact of Welfare Reform Changes on Social Housing Tenants in Wales**, January 2015.
- Sheffield Hallam University, **The Local Impact of Welfare Reform in Wales**, 2014.

Third Sector

- Welsh Government's **Third Sector Scheme** (2014) and **Volunteering policy** (2015) were both recently revised.
- The **Welsh Government's Annual Report 2014-15** (published in March 2016) on the third sector includes an outline of the recent changes to the third sector infrastructure scheme.

The Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) produces a variety of **research** on the third sector, including:

- **All Wales Database of Voluntary Organisations in Wales (January 2016).**
- **Third Sector Funding 2013-14 Executive Summary.**
- **Analysis of the All Wales database of Voluntary Organisations in Wales by county based and county active. (January 2016).**