



We reject the cuts as malicious ideological vandalism hitting the most vulnerable the most hardest - Join us in this struggle

Women will suffer three-quarters of the cuts

The public spending cuts introduced by the coalition government are already hitting people and communities across the country with job losses, cuts to benefits and cuts to public services. The cuts are disproportionately hitting women, the poorest and most vulnerable members of society – children and young people, disabled people, pensioners and lone parents are being particularly badly affected.

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Women will bear brunt of budget cuts

Official data compiled by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show that since the general election, women account for 68.2% of the cut in the number of workers in councils. The TUC has estimated that 325,000 of the 500,000 people who will lose their jobs as the result of public sector cuts will be women.

One in five women act as unpaid carers for adult family members and 60% of all unpaid carers are women so will be the ones picking up the pieces as social care services are cut. Women will lose more in cuts to benefits. Official figures show that of the £8bn net revenue to be raised by the financial year 2014–15, nearly £6bn will be from women, in contrast with just over £2bn from men.

Child benefit has been frozen for the next three years and childcare tax credit has been cut to cover 70% of childcare costs rather than the 80% previously covered. Research by Gingerbread and the Resolution Foundation has shown that the proposed changes to childcare under Universal Credit will make work unaffordable for many low-income women, particularly single mothers. There have been cuts to day nurseries and childcare offered through children's centres in many parts of the country. After-school and breakfast clubs have been hit by an increase in fees charged by schools and local authorities to use premises.

Cuts to education budgets have led to cuts in services in schools for children with special needs or mental health problems. These cuts have an impact on the women who are the mothers of these children, since mothers are more likely to be the primary carers and will be responsible for trying to get additional help, taking children to appointments, appealing against decisions and so on. Women make 73% of applications for legal aid in education-related cases.

Cuts to housing benefit will have a disproportionate impact on women. Single women make up 46% of LHA claimants, compared to 30% who are single men and 20% who are couples.

The Health in Pregnancy grant, which was a payment of £190 paid to women in the 25th week of pregnancy and designed to support healthy eating, was abolished from January 2011.

The Sure Start maternity grant of £500, which was paid to low-income women from the 29th week of pregnancy, is now only payable to women pregnant with their first child.

The Child Support Agency is being replaced by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC). From 2012 lone parents who use the CMEC will be charged an application fee of up to £100 and between 7% and 12% of any maintenance paid.

Social care budgets for services to elderly people are due to be cut by an average of 8 per cent, according to research by Age UK. The Financial Times calculated that cuts of £1.4bn are being made to adult social care services across the UK. Since women live longer than men, they will be disproportionately affected.

Services for women experiencing violence are under threat. One of the main sources of funding for women's refuge services, the Supporting People programme, has been cut by 11.5 per cent and is no longer ring-fenced. This has resulted in councils in some parts of the country making cuts of up to 50 per cent in their spending on Supporting People projects. Funding for rape crisis centres has been cut by councils in a number of parts of the country.