

Cutting Women Out?

About Fawcett

- **the UK's leading campaign for equality between women and men**
- **Trace our roots back to 1866, to Millicent Fawcett's peaceful struggle for women's votes**
- **Our vision is of a society in which women and men enjoy equality at work, at home, and in public life**

Women face a 'Triple Jeopardy'

1. Cuts to jobs

**2. Cuts to services and benefits
women use more**

**3. Women also likely to 'fill the
gaps'**

Cuts to jobs...

- **OBR est. 600,000 jobs to be lost in public sector**
 - **65% of public sector workers women**
 - **73% local government workers**
 - **77% of NHS**
 - **87% primary school teachers**
- = will have particular impact on women in part-time work/ on low wages**

Cuts to services...

- **Social care services - children, elderly, disabled, sick**
- **Children's services - cuts already being seen locally**
- **Support for teenage mothers**
- **Support for pregnant women - est. 40,000 midwifery job losses**

Cuts to benefits – so far...

On average, benefits and tax credits comprise 1/5th of women's income and less than 1/10th of men's

- **Child Benefit**
- **Reductions in entitlements to CTCs**
- **Lone-parent conditionality**
- **Housing Benefit**
- **Up-rating by CPI rather than RPI**
- **Maternity payments**

Women filling the gaps...

- **Regressive ideology assumes women will fill the gaps**
- **Women already do more unpaid work than men - women on average 4 hours 15 a day compared with average 2 hours 18 a day for men**
- **Women do $\frac{3}{4}$'s of childcare during the week**
- **$\frac{3}{4}$'s recipients of carers allowance are women**

All this against a backdrop of.....

- **Full time pay gap of 16.4%**
- **64% of low paid workers are women**
- **40% of ethnic minority women live in poverty**
- **Women's average income in retirement only 57% of the average for men**

= a roll back on women's equality

George Osborne's Emergency Budget

- **Unveiled on 22 June 2010**
- **Outlined initial cuts of £19 billion to tax and welfare**
- **Rough-cut analysis by HoC Library estimates of £8.1 billion raised, 72% will come from women**
- **Study omits VAT and public sector pay freeze**
- **IFS research shows poorest will be hit hardest - particularly lone parents**

Fawcett's Judicial Review

- **Monday 2nd Aug - filed papers with the High Court on the basis that HMT did not do a GEIA of the Budget measures as req. by GED**
- **Remedy = a 'quashing order' - seeking a declaration that the Budget is unlawful and for gov to:**
 - **undertake and publish GEIA of Budget**
 - **take mitigating action where necessary**
 - **take its legal obligations seriously - longer term culture change in HMT**

Next Steps...

- **Currently waiting to hear if we have 'permission'**
- **Have applied for an oral hearing**
- **Hope to hear within the next few weeks**
 - In the press, HMT suggesting defence will be 'it can't be done'**

Comprehensive Spending Review

- **On 20th October the CSR will set out the government's spending plans to 2015**
- **£113bn of cuts by 2014-15, £128bn by 2015-16 = est. 25-40% cuts to DELs**
- **£40bn more than Labour planned under Alistair Darling**

Concerns so far...

- **Public sector job losses - where will jobs come from in the private sector - esp. for lone parents?**
- **Government's equality machinery - EHRC cut heavily, WNC abolished**
- **Cancellation of DVPO's, rape review, SV services under threat**

Concerns so far...cont.

- **Research by TUC shows the proposal to cut £34bn by 2012-13 is *regressive* - will impact lone parents most**
 - + **concerns about welfare reform - 'universal benefit' puts women's access to independent income under threat**
 - + **public sector pensions being cut**

What is Fawcett doing?

- **Highlighting and addressing the impact of deficit-cutting measures on women's equality**
- **Challenging prevailing assumption that in times of hardship women's equality takes 2nd place to economic imperative**
- **Holding government to account on, and campaigning for retention of, legal duty**

What you can do...

- **Join Fawcett to support our work**
- **Write to your local council re req. to undertake GEIA's on specific services/measures - refer to Fawcett's JR**
- **Write to your MP to ask them to raise PQ's**
- **Tell us your experiences - case studies essential**