

# **EVEN IT UP: A BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE**

 @oxfamcymru



**OXFAM**



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# INTRODUCTION

Oxfam's vision is of a world without poverty. Significant progress towards achieving this vision is being made. In just 15 years, extreme poverty has been halved. In 15 more, we can end it for good. Unfortunately the twin challenges of economic inequality and climate change threaten to undo much of the work that has been done to tackle poverty and hinder future efforts for positive change.

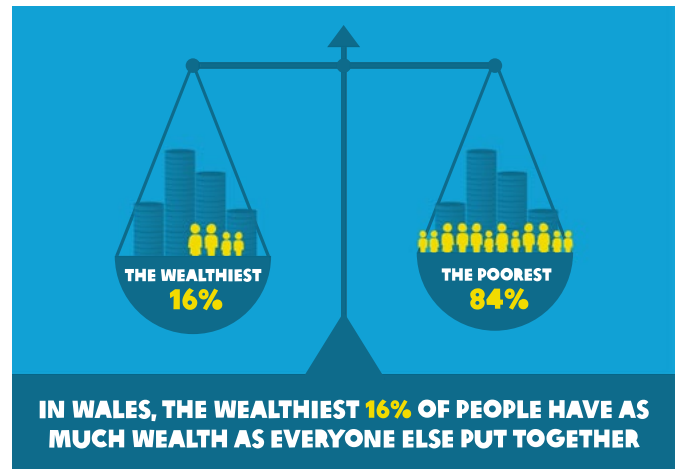
To overcome poverty and create a just society for everyone, we need to challenge the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the few. On current trends, by 2016 just 1% of the world's population will own more wealth than the other 99% put together.<sup>1</sup> We need to even it up, and to do so urgently.<sup>2</sup>

In the UK, the five richest families are wealthier than the bottom 20% of the entire population.<sup>3</sup> Here in Wales, the wealthiest 16% of people have as much wealth as everyone else put together.<sup>4</sup> Rates of pay have remained low for many people, while the incomes of the richest have continued to rise. The extent of low pay has not changed in a decade and poverty rates have remained above the national average for the past three years. Half of all Welsh households in poverty have at least one adult in paid employment,<sup>5</sup> disproving the much quoted adage that a person can work themselves – and their family – out of poverty. If we're going to tackle poverty and inequality, we need to spend more time listening to people in poverty and responding to what matters to them as individuals.

The surge in the number of people seeking emergency food support in Wales betrays the desperate, daily struggle facing many people, up and down the country, in just having access to the basics: like putting a meal on the table. Food banks must not become an institutionalised fixture of Welsh society.

There also remains a strong gender dimension to the face of Welsh poverty and inequality. Women are over-represented in low paid, part-time, insecure and temporary work.<sup>6</sup> Women's voices are also often absent in decision-making roles in government and public bodies, resulting in "gender blind" policies, leading once again to ineffective solutions that fail to address the issues at hand.

Wales is part of a global community and must act accordingly. We know that climate change is costing lives. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.<sup>7</sup> This must become a top priority for the next Welsh Government if it is to ensure that Wales honours its commitment under the pioneering Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to become a globally responsible nation.



Investment in Education for Global Citizenship is a necessary step to secure our future economic wellbeing and to foster a globally responsible outlook for generations to come. This will also help us to continue our proud history of providing sanctuary to those in need. No-one wants to be an asylum-seeker or refugee; people want to be at home and live free from fear. Let us provide them with the welcome they deserve.

In the pages to come, we set out our *Blueprint for Change* which will help deliver a decent quality of life for all, without compromising the ability of others, either here or abroad, now or in the future, to attain an acceptable quality of life.

Our policy calls are based on evidence and experiences gathered through our work with communities in Wales, the expertise of our partners and Oxfam's work globally, ensuring that our policy solutions are effective and feasible within a devolved context. Not all political power rests in Wales but, where it does have power, the next Welsh Government should act boldly and, where it does not, be a strong and progressive advocate for change.

Fundamentally, we are calling on all political parties in Wales to adopt these policies so that the incoming Welsh Government in 2016 may be a world-leading exemplar for other governments to emulate.



Oxfam's Even It Up Bus in Cardiff Bay, October 2015

Photo: Oxfam / Tegid Cartwright

# 1

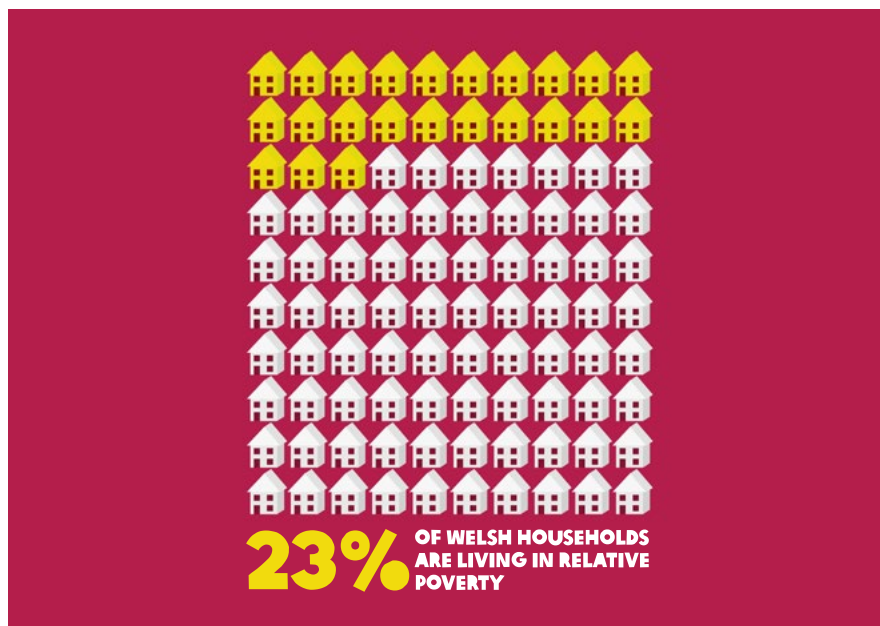
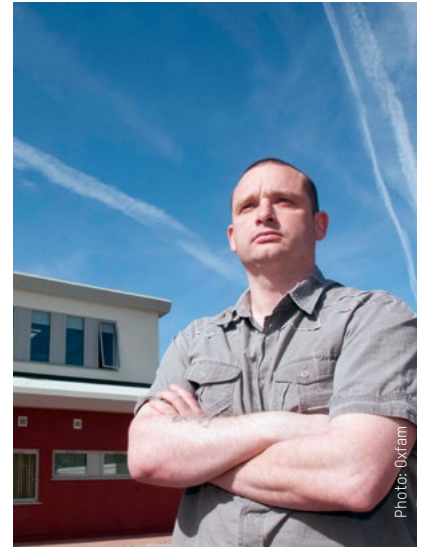
## TACKLING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND POVERTY

# WE WANT A WALES WHERE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IS REDUCED THROUGH PROACTIVE POLICY CHOICES THAT REDUCE POVERTY AND CREATE A FAIRER AND MORE EQUAL COUNTRY

## WHY?

Economic inequality<sup>8</sup> is an issue facing all of us. Globally, the 80 richest individuals have as much wealth as the poorest half of the global population.<sup>9</sup> Since the 1970s, economic inequality has grown faster in the UK than anywhere else in Europe.<sup>10</sup> Britain's richest 1% has accumulated as much wealth as the poorest 55% of the population.<sup>11</sup>

While the incomes of the richest have continued to rise, overall poverty<sup>12</sup> levels in Wales have changed little since 2010/2011.<sup>13</sup> 23% of households in Wales live in relative poverty.<sup>14</sup> The proportion of these households that have at least one adult working has risen steadily.<sup>15</sup>



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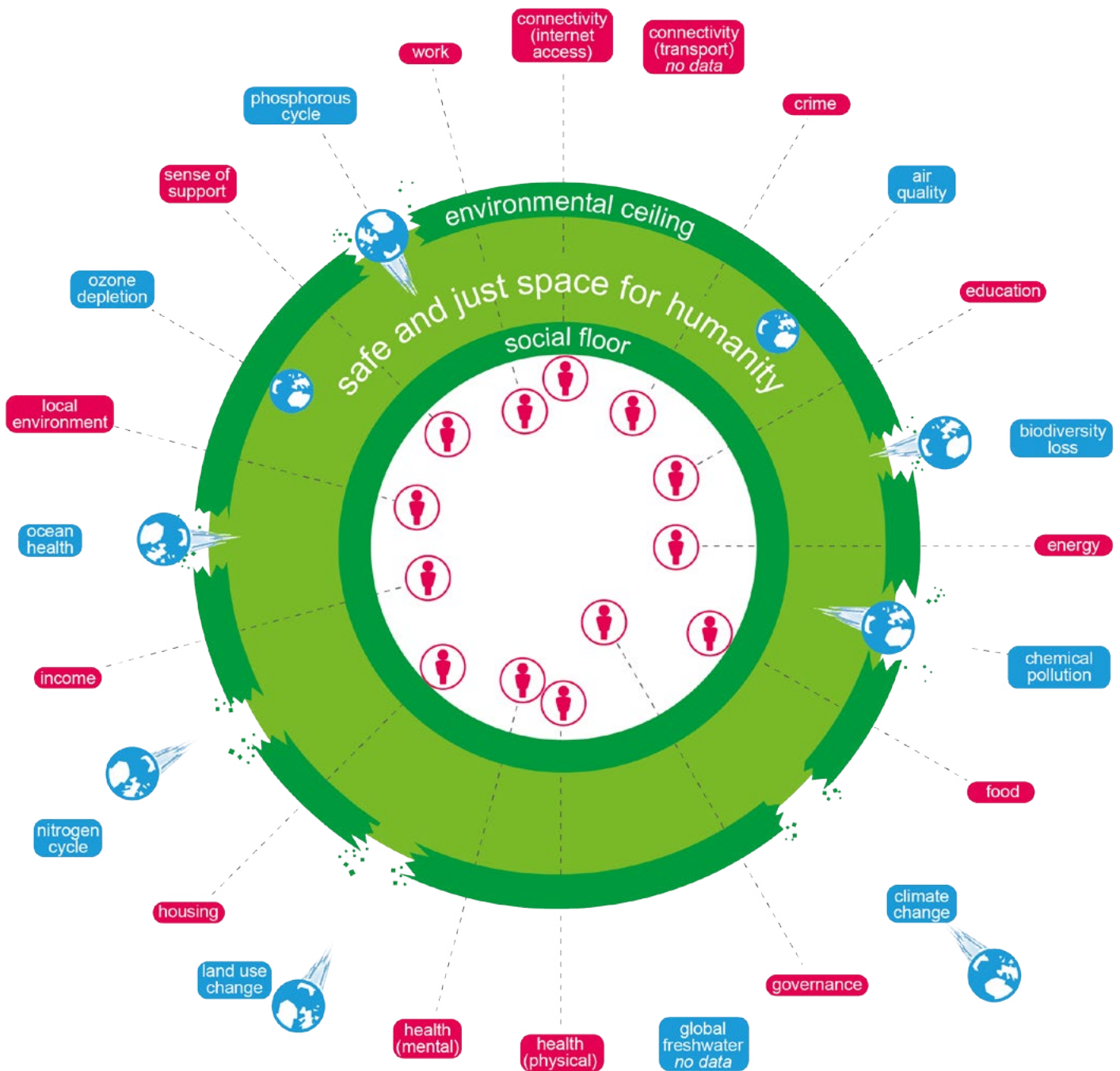
"I have gone from zero hours contracts that never paid enough to live on, to temporary contracts or jobs where your hours were cut after a few weeks. The only work round here is agency stuff with no security but you feel you have to take what's offered or lose your benefits. Every time you start over it's a knockback [...] it's like being stuck on a treadmill."

Lee, single dad, South Wales Valleys  
Oxfam's Livelihoods Project

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act commits Welsh Ministers to a goal of delivering a more equal Wales, enabling people to reach their full potential.<sup>16</sup>

This goal is hugely welcome and highly necessary, as currently Wales falls short on providing the minimum that a household requires for a decent standard of living. For example, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's (JRF) Minimum Income Standard is based on what goods and services members of the public believe different households need in order to fully participate in society. According to JRF, more than 29% of households in Wales have an income below the minimum income standard.<sup>17</sup>

Similarly, Oxfam Cymru's Welsh Doughnut report sets out a 'social floor' below which, we believe, no person in Wales should fall.<sup>18</sup> This social floor is made up of 12 key headline indicators, spanning education, energy, food, governance, health (both physical and mental), housing, income, local environment, sense of support, work, crime and connectivity (both transport and internet access) domains.<sup>19</sup> Shockingly, our own Welsh Doughnut analysis reveals that, too many Welsh people fall below the social floor on each and every key proxy indicator. Almost one-quarter of households in Wales are living in relative poverty and a staggering 40% of households are unable to heat their homes adequately. Over a quarter of the adult population in Wales lack any formal qualification and almost one-fifth of people lack satisfying work. Over half (51%) of people feel they have no say over what the government does.<sup>20</sup>





While we would obviously want to see Wales performing better against all of these indicators, ensuring that each of us has access to adequate food, shelter and warmth as a minimum would be a good starting point for change, especially in the current context of rising food and fuel poverty and increasing pressure on existing housing stock. The incoming Welsh Government must ensure that, as a minimum, each of us has access to food, shelter and warmth.

Economic inequality and poverty in Wales are pervasive, not static, and can lead to a variety of devastating outcomes. For example, the death rate among children living in the most deprived fifth of Wales is 70% higher than those living in the least deprived fifth.<sup>21</sup> The Welsh Health Survey demonstrates significant correlations between mental illness and deprivation; in the most deprived areas 18% of people report mental illness, while only 9% did so in the least deprived areas.<sup>22</sup>

Similarly, children from deprived backgrounds will be over a year behind in their vocabulary by the time they are five-years-old, are more likely to fail to achieve expected levels by the end of primary school and are over five times more likely to become NEET (not in education, employment or training) when compared with children from less deprived backgrounds.<sup>23</sup>

We therefore believe that there is a clear moral and economic case for prioritising work to eradicate poverty and inequality. The Bevan Foundation has estimated that poverty costs the Welsh economy £3.5 billion a year, wasting people's potential, whilst hampering economic growth.<sup>24</sup>

For all these reasons, tackling economic inequality and poverty must be a top priority for Wales. Clearly, the causes and symptoms of these issues are complex and wide ranging. To tackle these issues effectively we need a whole government approach. The Welsh Government's *Tackling Poverty Action Plan*<sup>25</sup> is a step in the right direction, but far more needs to be done. Currently, responsibility for tackling poverty lies with a Minister with a wide array of responsibilities. However, in line with the 'Feeding Britain' report from the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the United Kingdom,<sup>26</sup> we recommend that a Deputy Minister be appointed within the Finance Department with sole responsibility for assessing work to tackle poverty, reduce inequality and raise the living standards of those households with the lowest budgets. The Deputy Minister's position with the Finance Department will enable them to co-ordinate effective responses from across Welsh Government.

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Appoint a Deputy Minister within the Finance Department of Welsh Government with sole responsibility for assessing work to tackle poverty, reduce inequality and raise living standards of low budget households.
- Commit to the principle of a 'social floor' below which it is unacceptable for people to fall and that all policies work to ensure that, as an absolute minimum, every person in Wales has access to adequate food, shelter and warmth.



## WE WANT A WALES WHERE NO ONE GOES HUNGRY

### WHY?

Access to nutritious and healthy food is a fundamental part of life. Yet, increasingly, it seems for many people in the UK, providing food for themselves and their families is challenging due to inadequate incomes and the rising cost of living.

Worryingly, the use of Trussell Trust food banks in Wales is disproportionately high compared to other regions: in 2014-2015, 85,875 Welsh people, including 30,136 children, were given three days of emergency food.<sup>27</sup> We suspect this underestimates the number of people going hungry in Wales due to a lack of data from other emergency food aid providers and food bank users being only a small group of the wider food insecure population. The stigma of accessing emergency food aid helps to explain why this is usually a “strategy of last resort” for people, with many employing other coping mechanisms or preferring to go hungry instead.<sup>28</sup>



The creation of the Food Poverty Alliance by the current Welsh Government is a step in the right direction that recognised the need to improve data collection and put the issue of food insecurity firmly on the agenda. Building on this work would enable the next Welsh Government to better understand who is experiencing hunger in Wales and why, and enable them to develop effective interventions to ensure that food banks do not become an institutionalised fixture of society. Providers, such as The Trussell Trust, place a high value on the non-food support that they are able to offer, and DEFRA has highlighted the importance of other non-food based support through the food bank network.<sup>29</sup> The next Welsh Government must recognise that advice and information on welfare rights, income maximisation and debt management are key in tackling the deep links to poverty, alongside the provision of secure and well-paid work. Political parties should all provide detailed plans for using devolved powers to reduce food insecurity year-on-year throughout the next Assembly.

It is important to remember that food bank use is a symptom of wider poverty. We must ensure everyone has sufficient food, but we must focus on reducing poverty by increasing individuals' access to sufficient and predictable income.



Photo: Warwick Butler

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"The letter said 'you've failed your employment support medical and you're not going to get any benefit.' My fridge was empty; there was nothing in the cupboard. Then my housing benefit got cut – they thought that because I got no benefit I was in a job. The food bank was a lifeline, but the whole thing set me back mentally – the stress of it. I felt so upset, worthless and desperate."

Nia, 22, North East Wales  
Oxfam's Livelihoods Project

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Commit to robustly measure and monitor food insecurity across Wales, including among those who don't use a food bank.
- Produce and implement a detailed plan using devolved powers to reduce food insecurity year-on-year, including boosting access to advice and information.

# WE WANT A WALES THAT RECOGNISES AND VALUES THE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY TO SHAPE SOLUTIONS THAT IMPROVE THEIR LIVES

## WHY?

Poverty is not static – people can move in and out of poverty as their personal circumstances change. Research shows that almost half of all individuals in Britain find themselves below the relative poverty income line at some point over a nine year period.<sup>30</sup> People's experiences of poverty are also unique and are shaped by a broad range of other factors including age, gender, ethnicity, disability and personal circumstances.

A 'one size fits all' approach to tackling poverty will therefore not bring about lasting change. We need dynamic and adaptable interventions for each stage and circumstance of a person's life. Such an approach is only possible if we have a clear understanding of who is living in poverty and why. This evidence base can be improved by further research, particularly for those at a higher risk of poverty, for example among women<sup>31</sup> and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities.

Programmes and policies aimed at tackling poverty need to be based on robust evidence and data, and must also reflect the reality of life below the poverty line. People living in poverty are among the least likely to engage with politics and the work of government. This means their voices are often not heard, resulting in policies and services that fail to address the real issues and barriers that people face. In other parts of the UK, including Scotland and Leeds, this is being addressed through the creation of Poverty Truth Commissions, which bring people who are experiencing poverty (testifiers) and civic and business leaders together to address the causes and consequences of poverty.<sup>32</sup>

People experiencing poverty have strengths and capabilities that enable them to 'get by' and can be empowered to address their own poverty from a holistic perspective by actively building on their asset base<sup>34</sup> in order to create a more sustainable livelihood. Many traditional schemes designed to tackle poverty focus only on one factor (e.g. income or skills), treating a group of people in the same area as needing the same outcome. However, an assets-based approach takes each person as an individual, and works with them to understand what assets they do have (looking at health, social, physical, public and financial) and works to help the individual build on what they already have to take more control over their own lives.<sup>35</sup>

This approach has been used across Wales through Oxfam's Livelihoods project. Not only does evidence from this project show that individuals have been able to affect transformational changes in their livelihoods, but also a significant return on financial investment.

For example, with support from a Livelihoods worker, an older woman looking for work through volunteer placements was able to come off benefits entirely and become self-employed. For every £1 spent supporting this individual, the public purse saved £23.<sup>36</sup>



**"I have become convinced that we are more likely to identify a solution to some deep-rooted problems if politicians and officials involve those who experience the reality of poverty in their daily lives."**

**Lord Wallace of Tankerness**

Co-Chair of Scotland's Poverty Truth Commission<sup>33</sup>

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Support the development of a Welsh Poverty Truth Commission to listen directly to people living in poverty, enabling them to shape Government policy and practice.
- Embed an assets-based approach in all policy and service delivery aimed at helping people break out of poverty.





Photo: Oxfam

# 2

## WOMEN, WORK & WAGES



# WE WANT ALL WOMEN IN WALES TO HAVE INCREASED POWER OVER THEIR LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS, BETTER ACCESS TO DECENT WORK AND TO RECEIVE FAIR PAY

## WHY?

Despite progress, gender imbalances remain evident across many areas of life in Wales and have a significant impact on women, their families and the wider economy. There is clear evidence that women are more vulnerable to poverty,<sup>37</sup> are the most affected by changes to the benefits system<sup>38</sup> and the most at risk from cuts to public services.<sup>39</sup>



The gender pay gap, which currently stands at 19% for full and part-time workers,<sup>40</sup> is a clear indication of the economic inequality experienced by women. This is shaped by women's position in the labour market where they are less likely to be in 'decent work',<sup>41</sup> dominating in low paid, part-time and insecure employment, in sectors that offer little chance of progression.<sup>42</sup> In addition:

- 80% of all part-time jobs in Wales are held by women and 75% of these jobs are in retail, administration, personal services and other typically low paid occupations.<sup>43</sup>
- Women are more likely to live on a persistent low income; 22% compared with 14% of men.<sup>44</sup>
- 62% of workers paid below the Living Wage (as defined by the Living Wage Foundation<sup>45</sup>) are women.<sup>46</sup>
- 55% of UK workers employed on zero hours contracts are women.<sup>47</sup>

The evidence demonstrates that women's dominance in poor quality, low paid employment is a significant factor in determining poverty rates of women and their families.<sup>48</sup> Low pay remains a significant issue in Wales, with one in four workers earning less than the Living Wage.<sup>49</sup> Steps to ensure provision of decent work and payment of a Living Wage based on the cost of living should be an important element of action to tackle poverty rates in Wales.<sup>50</sup> We believe the Welsh Government should take strong action on low pay, and commit to paying the Living Wage to all staff, either employed directly or indirectly, ensure all public bodies in Wales become Living Wage employers, and use other levers (such as procurement) to encourage more Welsh businesses to pay the Living Wage.



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"I wish I could work, but it isn't worth me working at all. I used to work. I was a cleaner. But I can't earn enough to make it pay. And I would need to pay for childcare. It just does not add up."

**Jenny, single mother**  
Oxfam's Livelihoods Project

This is not to say that the Living Wage is a panacea in tackling all of the issues relating to low pay. For example, those with disabilities may need a higher income to be able to afford to equally and fully participate in society. Hourly wages also fail to provide the whole picture when it comes to decent work, where job insecurity, underemployment and low-paid self-employment are real issues. However, with a quarter of the Welsh workforce paid below the Living Wage, this is a good place to start tackling the issues of low pay and decent work.

One of the key issues affecting the job choices of women is that it is still most common for women to take on the role of primary carer for dependents (both children and other relatives) in a household. In England and Wales 58% of primary carers are women.<sup>51</sup> The associated issues of cost and availability of childcare are therefore major contributing factors that can limit women's economic participation. As a result of these unpaid caring responsibilities, women often either reduce their hours or leave the labour market altogether.

The amount and intensity of unpaid care work can be even greater for those living in poverty due to a lack of public services and adequate infrastructure in their locality, as well as a lack of resources to pay for alternative care services.<sup>52</sup> Inadequate childcare has been highlighted as a crucial barrier by participants across much of Oxfam Cymru's work with individuals and communities in Wales.

Wales deserves a world class childcare system. It would help to address issues of poverty and educational attainment, and support the economy to grow, enabling more women to enter and progress in the workplace. An independent wholesale review of childcare provision in Wales would allow the next Welsh Government to understand what works, what doesn't, and what action is needed to deliver for children, parents and employers.



Glynnoch Allotment in South Wales, part of Oxfam Cymru's Building Livelihoods and Strengthening Communities in Wales Project

Oxfam Cymru project participant sharing her story at the National Assembly for Wales



Photo: Oxfam

But we also know that poverty and economic inequality are about more than just money and childcare provision: it is fundamentally about power too. Internationally, there is strong evidence to suggest the lack of women in decision-making roles means their needs, and those of their children, are de-prioritised.<sup>53</sup>

In Wales, women's voices remain drastically under-represented among the bodies that make decisions affecting their day-to-day lives. Only nine out of 40 Welsh MPs are women and the Assembly has seen female representation drop from over 50% in 2005 to 41% in 2011.<sup>54</sup> This can result in 'gender blind' policies and services that do not adequately meet the different needs of women and men.

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Make Wales a Living Wage<sup>55</sup> nation by ensuring that Welsh public bodies are Living Wage employers and using all levers – such as procurement and grant funding – to incentivise employers to provide decent work, including payment of the Living Wage.
- Commission an independent and comprehensive review of childcare provision in Wales.
- Ensure full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision making in the public sector by 2030.<sup>56</sup>





Photo: Glenn Edwards/Oxfam

**3**

# **A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES**



# WE WANT A WALES THAT DOES NOT GIVE TO THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE WITH ONE HAND AND TAKE WITH THE OTHER

## WHY?

Wales is part of a global community. We have played a role in international development for many years through the Wales for Africa programme, which supports Welsh community, school and public sector activities to assist communities in Africa. This programme has shown how devolved governments can have a lasting difference in changing lives in Africa. Welsh Government should maintain its commitment to support those undertaking international development, which has a benefit here in Wales too. The programme has provided networking and exposure and is in a position to develop to include further work on issues like gender justice and policy development.

We must be mindful that actions we take here in Wales impact on those around the globe. Policies around energy, transport, economic development, education and procurement, all have the potential to impact on communities around the world either negatively or positively. For example, we should ensure that, when sourcing supplies and services from developing countries, international companies abide by decent work conditions and rates of pay.

Wales has an important role to play in responding to global disasters. Over the past 10 years the number of people affected by humanitarian crises has almost doubled.<sup>57</sup> The people of Wales have responded generously to emergency appeals with successive Welsh governments playing an active role by raising awareness and vital funds. This coordinating role of Welsh Government must continue and be strengthened.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts a clear obligation on all public bodies to ensure that Wales is a globally responsible nation.<sup>58</sup> To fulfil this duty, Wales must consider what role it wants to play in the global arena and take stock of its impact on the world. Procurement is a key lever for achieving this. Higher expectations need to be placed on businesses to be responsible employers, particularly in return for the array of state support that they receive, and in the delivery of public contracts. The Welsh Government needs to drive sustainable and ethical action by businesses that are supported by public bodies in relation to their activities domestically and internationally.



Photo: Oxfam

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Protect the Wales for Africa budget and Wales' contribution to secure better futures for the poorest communities globally.
- Actively engage with DEC Cymru<sup>59</sup> and diaspora groups to better support coordinated responses to disasters and emergencies.
- Work to ensure that international companies in its global supply chain offer decent work conditions and pay to all workers.

## WE WANT A WALES THAT SUPPORTS OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE ETHICAL, INFORMED CITIZENS OF WALES AND THE WORLD

### WHY?

Education is key to ensuring that future generations have the knowledge, understanding and values needed to be global citizens. This is important to secure a globally responsible outlook and for our economic wellbeing. Education for Global Citizenship enables young people to develop their knowledge and skills to enhance their employability for Wales' workforce in the global marketplace and to better understand the role Wales can play in tackling global issues such as economic inequality, poverty and climate change.

The 'Successful Futures' curriculum review, by Professor Donaldson, concluded that our young people should have the opportunity to develop as "ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world".<sup>60</sup> Estyn had previously identified the need to improve pupils' understanding of the more complex global citizenship concepts and ensure strong leadership and appropriate training.<sup>61</sup>

The next Welsh Government should accept and implement the recommendation of the 'Successful Futures' report and ensure that the Welsh curriculum maintains a commitment to delivering an Education for Global Citizenship and that schools, local authorities, Education Consortia and Welsh Government itself provide resources in support of these goals.

The next Welsh Government should ensure that teachers have access to ongoing support, training and resources that will enable them to deliver world leading Education for Global Citizenship, as recommended by Estyn.<sup>62</sup> Regional Consortia and local authorities will also require access to ongoing Welsh Government support to deliver effective resources for use by teachers.



Learners participating in  
a Model UN session in Cardiff

Photo: Oxfam



Emily Pemberton from Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr during her visit to Ghana as a Send My Friend School Youth Ambassador



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“Not having sufficient knowledge of the wider world can only lead to ignorance and estrangement within society, which can only be a hindrance to the development of any country and its economy.”

Emily, Year 10, Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr and Send my Friend to School Youth Ambassador 2015

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Accept and implement the recommendation of the ‘Successful Futures’ curriculum review that our young people should have the opportunity to develop as ‘ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.
- Require local authorities and Regional Consortia to provide (directly or indirectly) ongoing support, training and resources, enabling schools to deliver world leading Education for Global Citizenship.

## WE WANT A WALES THAT RESPONDS TO CLIMATE CHANGE BASED ON GLOBAL EQUITY AND FAIRNESS

### WHY?

The world's poorest people are the first hit and worst affected by climate change. People living in developing countries are 20 times more likely to be affected by climate-related disasters – such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes – than those of us living in the industrialised world.<sup>63</sup>

In the UK, lower-income and other disadvantaged groups contribute least to causing climate change but are likely to be most negatively affected by it.<sup>64</sup> As part of the industrialised world, Wales needs to play its part in tackling climate change.

Wales' consumption of natural resources is far beyond what its population size can justify; Oxfam's 2015 Welsh Doughnut report showed that Wales has exceeded safe limits for the consumption of CO<sub>2</sub> by 410%.<sup>65</sup> In addition:

- Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) in Wales rose by 10% between 2012 and 2013.<sup>66</sup>
- The Committee on Climate Change warns that Wales is on course to miss its target to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.<sup>67</sup>
- In order for Wales to meet its 2020 target of reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels, emissions in Wales will need to be reduced by a further 28% between 2014 and 2020.<sup>68</sup>
- 59% of people think that the effects of climate change will be worse in 25 years.<sup>69</sup>



Unless governments across the world, including the next Welsh Government, prioritise action to tackle climate change, future generations will continue to pay the price through greater hunger, greater health risks and climate-related disasters that will result in mass displacement of people. In the next 40 years, climate-related disasters are projected to displace between 150 million and one billion people.<sup>70</sup>

In order to deliver on the goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act, it is vital that Wales takes action on both territorial and consumptive emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>71</sup> Putting in place a requirement on Welsh Government to calculate and report on emissions, produced anywhere in the world as a result of Wales's consumption of goods and services, would prove a significant step forward in the country understanding its role in climate change.



There are challenges in estimating consumptive emissions. However, if Wales is to be a globally responsible nation, then it must seek to take these emissions into account. The next Welsh Government should ensure that a Well-Being Indicator monitors both territorial and consumptive emissions, and a Well-Being Objective is set committing the next Welsh Government to reduce both groups of emissions.

Fossil fuels are the single biggest driver of climate change, and it is vital that 80% of known reserves remain in the ground if we are to avoid dangerous global warming.<sup>72</sup>

The next Welsh Government should set a clear energy strategy to ensure a just transition to clean energy sources, using the devolved levers at its disposal. It should be a strong voice in challenging the Westminster Government to do the same.



Photo: Stop Climate Chaos Cymru

Stop Climate Chaos Cymru supporters at the Climate Change Lobby of Parliament in London, June 2015



Photo: Oxfam

**"Farming is the only livelihood we have. Over the past 10 years, the climate has changed. We had a time when there was a lot of rain and all of our crops were destroyed, so we couldn't harvest any food. Another time, the rains came as normal but went very early, and the crops wilted and died due to the heat."**

**Ipaishie Masvingise**  
from Gutu, Zimbabwe



Photo: Bernard Llewelyn

**"Climate change is a big issue for farmers. We must address this serious issue for the sake of our food supply and rural economy. If we act now, we can provide a positive future for Welsh family farms and farmers world wide."**

**Bernard Llewelyn**  
from Carmarthenshire

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Publish a carbon assessment of the annual fiscal budget, major strategies and infrastructure projects.
- Commit infrastructure budget to undertake a whole-house refit for a third of existing Welsh housing stock (around 400,000 homes) by 2020, encompassing energy efficiency and micro-generation (where appropriate) to reduce emissions by 60% per property.<sup>73</sup>
- Commit to calculating and reporting on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions attributable to Welsh consumption of goods and services, and set a Well-Being Objective to reduce both territorial and consumptive emissions.
- Produce a clear energy strategy that ensures a just transition to clean energy and champion the reduction of fossil fuels at a UK level.



Welsh public show support for Syrian refugees  
at Cardiff march, September 2015

Photo: Hannah Wharf

# 4

## A WELCOMING WALES



# WE WANT A WALES THAT OFFERS A WARM WELCOME TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

## WHY?

The world is currently facing the greatest refugee crisis of our time, with the number of refugees now higher than at the end of World War II.

Wales has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those in need.<sup>74</sup> We welcome Wales' positive humanitarian stance towards those seeking sanctuary, with asylum-seekers provided with free access to NHS healthcare and access to education. It is vital that Wales continues to play its part.

At the end of 2014, there were almost 60 million forcibly displaced people including nearly 20 million living as refugees.<sup>75</sup> For most, the situations they are fleeing are themselves protracted crises offering no quick solutions. Hidden behind these statistics are the millions who flee their homes but remain displaced within their own borders (such as the millions in South Sudan and Yemen). With their comparative wealth, Wales and the UK need to take in a fairer share of the world's refugees to show solidarity and help poorer countries that are currently – and overwhelmingly – hosting the highest numbers. One in four of the population in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee.

The ongoing crisis in Syria is one that demands urgent attention. The year following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2139 saw a dramatic intensification of the violence in Syria. Reports indicate that at least 76,000 people were killed in 2014 out of a total of at least 220,000 since the crisis began, including thousands of children. The exact death toll is unknown, and possibly much higher.



Deliberate attacks, including the organised murder, rape, and torture of men, women and children continue to be committed by different sides of the conflict throughout Syria, on a daily basis. As of 10 September 2015, more than 11.5 million people have been displaced by the violence in Syria, with 4 million seeking international protection as refugees.<sup>76</sup> The UK has resettled around 216<sup>77</sup> of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees with a commitment to take 20,000 more from Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan by 2020.

Wales must play its part by offering sanctuary to those fleeing violence and danger. Oxfam's fair share analysis estimates an equitable share of resettlement or humanitarian admissions places that should be provided for the most vulnerable refugees currently registered in countries neighbouring Syria. Wales should be resettling at least 724 Syrian refugees by the end of 2016.<sup>78</sup>

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"Thank you so much and god bless you, you are very kind.  
I have some good friends here and pray that I can stay.  
I feel happy most days now."

**Asylum-seeker, living in North Wales**  
Oxfam's Livelihoods Project



Photo: Sam Tatling/Oxfam

Mawia\*, 4, and her mother wait to be reunited with Mawia's father, Mahamoud Abdullah Othman, after getting split up in the crowd at a registration centre for migrants and refugees in Preševu, in southern Serbia, on October 5, 2015. Mahamoud said that his family had been waiting three days to register for a permit to travel onwards through Serbia. In October 2015, Oxfam launched a brand new humanitarian programme worth €1m in Serbia to help some of the thousands fleeing to safety.

\*Child's name has been changed to protect identity.

## OXFAM CYMRU CALLS ON THE NEXT WELSH GOVERNMENT TO:

- Officially establish Wales as the first 'Nation of Sanctuary'.
- Commit to playing a full role in refugee resettlement schemes, such as the European Gateway Programme and Syrian Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme.
- Actively support local authorities to take part in refugee resettlement schemes such as the European Gateway Programme and the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme.



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# OXFAM IN WALES

Oxfam Cymru works with others in Wales to find lasting solutions to overcome poverty and suffering. We speak out on the big issues that keep people poor, like inequality, discrimination against women and climate change. We believe it is possible to live together in a fairer world. We won't live with the injustice of poverty.

Oxfam Cymru has worked in Wales since 1996, working in many of our poorest communities to co-create projects to improve the lives of people living in poverty and demonstrate how things can change for the best. Our projects use a 'Sustainable Livelihoods Approach' (which focuses on the assets people already have, rather than what they don't have) to overcome poverty, develop resilience and build sustainable livelihoods for individuals, their families and communities.

Oxfam Cymru also works in partnership with a wide variety of coalitions, including Stop Climate Chaos Cymru, Hub Cymru Africa, the Sustainable Development Alliance, End Child Poverty Network and the Fuel Poverty Coalition.

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[www.oxfam.org.uk/cymru/blog](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/cymru/blog)

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