

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

12th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Tuesday 14 December 2021

Roundtable

Women's Unfair Responsibility for Unpaid Care and Domestic Work

Note by the clerk

Introduction

1. The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee agreed to hold a number of roundtable meetings about subjects within its remit.
2. Today's virtual roundtable session will be on **Women's unfair responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work** as a result of the pandemic. The Committee will hear from stakeholders representing protected characteristics, carers and young women about the impact of Covid on women within those groups.
3. On [7 December](#) the Committee held an introductory session on this issue with groups representing women's rights.
4. The Committee agreed to undertake work in this area following evidence it received as part of its pre-budget scrutiny. Members heard that the burden placed on women in relation to unpaid caring duties for elderly parents and children and an increase in domestic work during lockdown, and as the country emerges from the pandemic, is likely to have a long-term negative impact on their future rights and economic prospects.
5. The session will focus both on the financial impact on women in protected groups and on the impact on their mental health and wellbeing. It will also explore to what extent they have suffered disproportionately when compared with women who do not fall within these groups. The session will also explore what support has been made available and what further measures are required as the country emerges from the pandemic.

Participants

6. The following people will be taking part in the virtual roundtable—

- **Satwat Rehman**, Chief Executive Officer, One Parent Families Scotland;
- **Heather Fiskin**, Interim Director/Head of Policy and Research Team, Inclusion Scotland
- **Catriona Melville**, Policy Engagement and Campaigns Officer, Age Scotland
- **Margaret Lance**, BEMIS and Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network
- **Fiona Collie**, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Carers Scotland
- **Dr Patrycja Kupiec**, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Scotland

Topics

7. The session will be a chance to discuss topics such as:-

- The increased demands placed on older/younger women, disabled women, minority ethnic women and lone parents as a result of the pandemic;
- How the pandemic has affected women's ability to maintain work and the demands of unpaid caring and domestic responsibilities;
- What impact the pandemic has had on the financial security of disabled women, minority ethnic women and lone parents;
- To what extent the pandemic has impacted those with caring responsibilities;
- Whether there has been an impact on the physical and mental health and well being of women in these groups and if there are different impacts for different groups;
- How increased rates of domestic abuse and violence against women specifically impacted different groups of women and what support is in place to address this;
- What measures have been put in place to support women in these groups through the pandemic and what would be key to providing further support as the country recovers.

**Clerks to the Committee
December 2021**