

Human Rights Consortium Scotland



Briefing 1 – The right to Social Security



Easy Read





The Scottish Government is making a new law about **human rights**.



Human rights mean the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world.



The new law will bring in human rights agreed by lots of countries.

These agreements are called international human rights treaties.



1 part of this new law will be the right to **social security**.

Social security means the welfare benefits that we need to live on.

These benefits are usually money that is given to us.



This document is about the right to social security.

Everyone has the right to social security.



This right means that everyone should be able to get enough benefits to live on when they need them.



This right comes from the **United Nations** human rights agreements.
It is called Article 9.



The **United Nations** is a group of different countries that work together to try to make the world a safer place for everyone.



The UK Government has agreed to this right.





The United Nations says that there is a basic level of benefits that everyone should get when they need them.

The basic level of benefits



It is the Government's job to give the basic level of benefits.



The benefits need to help when you have difficult things happening in your life.

Things like getting ill or losing your job.



The benefits need to help when other things happen.



Things like having a baby or getting older.



The benefits need to be enough money for you to live on.

They need to help you get enough:

- food
- water
- good housing
- education
- healthcare





The benefits need to be offered for a long time if needed.



The benefits need to be accessible.

Everyone who needs them should be able to get them easily.

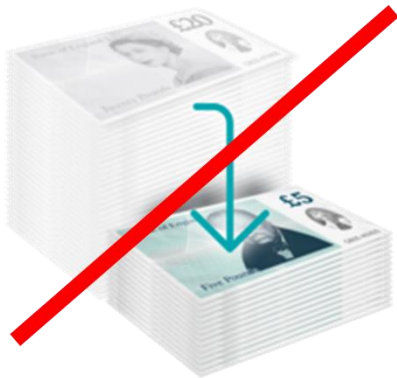
How social security is organised



The United Nations says the way that social security is organised is important too.



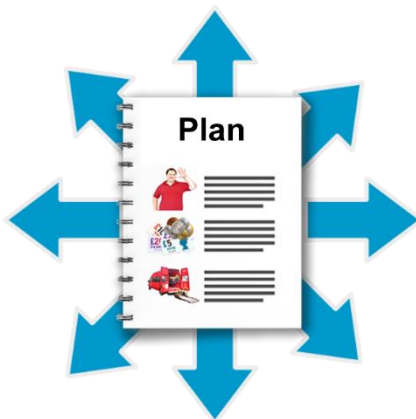
The benefits system needs to be fair.



Benefit payments should not go down.



The Government should not make changes to who gets benefits and who does not.



There needs to be a clear plan that is shared with everyone.



The Government needs to get better and better at protecting this right for social security.

In Scotland



Lots of the laws about benefits are decided by the UK Parliament.



But now the Scottish Parliament is also in charge of some social security benefits.



We want to put this human right agreement into our own law in Scotland.

This is called incorporation.



This means that everyone will have enough money to live on – even the poorest people in Scotland.



We would be able to use the law to make sure that people have this right.