

The 2011 UK Budget must sincerely and progressively address gender inequalities.

The coalition government has so far failed women.

On the 100th International Women's Day, the Women's Budget Group would like to emphasise the need for the 2011 Budget to introduce measures that will rectify gender inequalities.

The impact of both the 2010 Emergency Budget and the Comprehensive Spending Review was to worsen gender inequalities, by having a more adverse impact on women than men in terms of

- Incomes
- Paid employment
- Access to public services
- Contributions of unpaid care work

The Women's Budget Group has previously pointed out that together these measures have amounted to a regression to an unwelcome and out-dated 'male breadwinner, dependent female carer' model of relations between women and men.

We hope that in future budgets and CSRs not only will this trend be stopped, but measures will be introduced to rectify gender inequalities.

This would involve the conduct of higher quality gender impact assessments, which will draw on experience and expertise available in this field, such as within organisations like the Women's Budget Group.

The Women's Budget Group is a network of over 200 academics and activists. For more information, please contact Amy Watson (admin@wbg.org.uk), Coordinator of the Women's Budget Group.