

## **The Coalition Budget Fails the Gender Equality Test A 'Maid Marion' Tax Could Help It Pass**

The Coalition Government has failed to comply with the statutory Gender Equality Duty in not issuing a gender impact assessment of the budget.

The UK Women's Budget Group, a network of over 200 academics and members of NGOs, has drawn upon the knowledge of its members to assess the budget. We find that the Coalition Government's emergency budget will have a more adverse impact on women than on men, in terms of

- individual incomes,
- paid employment,
- access to public services,
- and contributions of unpaid care work.

We are concerned that the budget will restore an out-dated 'male breadwinner, dependent female carer' model of relations between women and men.

The budget could have been designed differently. A tax could have been levied on financial transactions and used to avoid measures detrimental to women- turning a 'Robin Hood' tax into a 'Maid Marion tax'.

A financial transactions tax set at a rate of just 0.01percent would raise net revenues by around £25 billion a year, easily enabling the government to avoid some of the most damaging spending measures.

It would pay for:

- uprating benefits, tax credits and public sector pensions in line with the Retail Price Index (£3900 million);
- retaining the health in pregnancy grant (£150million) and Sure Start maternity grants (£75million);
- restoring the cuts in tax credits (£3110million) and housing benefit (£1640million);
- not freezing child benefit (£940million);
- not requiring single parents whose youngest child starts school to look for paid employment (£150million);
- not making it more difficult to get Disability Living Allowance (£360million).

This would come to £10,325 million, leaving another £15,000 million or so to maintain the public services that are critical for gender equality.

Our full analysis is attached.

For more information, please contact, Jillian Foster, the Co-ordinator of the UK Women's Budget Group. By email at [info@wbg.org.uk](mailto:info@wbg.org.uk) or by phone at 075 7623 5554.