

## Fixating on the roof while the foundations crumble

The UK Women's Budget Group said today in response to the budget statement:

*"To justify his spending priorities, the Chancellor today quipped 'the sun is starting to shine and we are fixing the roof.' This blinkered perspective deliberately ignores the growing crisis of under investment in the social infrastructure on which the economy rests. The 60 minute statement made no mention of vital areas such as childcare, social care, education and health. It makes no sense to fixate on the roof while causing the social foundation to crumble." – Dr Jerome De Henau, The Open University and Management Committee member*

*"This is a budget of missed opportunities to address the crisis in UK social infrastructure. Yet again, the Chancellor announced a series of giveaways worth nearly £8bn over the next few years for high earners, beer drinkers and car drivers which will largely benefit higher earning men. Meanwhile, the £12bn welfare benefit cuts and £13bn cuts to services still to come will continue hitting women harder." – Polly Trenow, Management Committee member*

*"The Chancellor said he wanted to invest in the 'internet of things'. Women across the UK know that he needs to invest urgently in the networks of people which are central to a prosperous society." – Prof. Diane Perrons, Director of the LSE Gender Institute and Management Committee member*

Indeed, the Women's Budget Group and the Scottish Women's Budget Group are calling for 'Plan F' - a feminist economic strategy for a caring and sustainable economy which benefits the majority not the wealthy minority, and reverses the damage done by austerity. Plan F offers a sustainable economic strategy that puts the wellbeing of people first. Investment in social care and social infrastructure is not a drain on the country's resources - it's the bedrock of a sustainable economy for the twenty-first century. [<http://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/PLAN-F-2015.pdf>]

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NOTE: An in-depth analysis and a short briefing paper of the impact of the 2014 Budget will be published by Women's Budget Group on Tuesday 7th April 2014.

The Women's Budget Group is a network of over 250 academics and activists. For more information, please visit [www.wbg.org.uk](http://www.wbg.org.uk) or contact Rosalind Worsdale ([admin@wbg.org.uk](mailto:admin@wbg.org.uk)) WBG Coordinator