

Working for a

gender equal future



wbg WOMEN'S
BUDGET
GROUP

The Women's Budget Group is an independent network of leading academic researchers, policy experts and campaigners. Our vision is of a caring economy that promotes equality between genders. For over 30 years we have examined economic policy and asked 'who benefits?'. We produce robust analysis and aim to influence the people making policy. We also work to build the knowledge and confidence of others to talk about feminist economics by offering training and creating accessible resources.

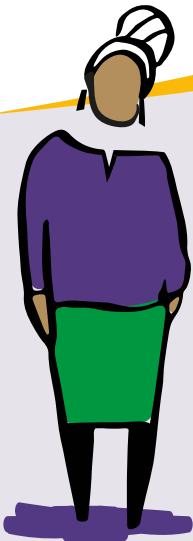
Gender analysis of budgets

The Women's Budget Group is probably best known for our gender analysis of Government Budgets and financial statements.

This work is widely respected and regularly quoted in parliamentary debates and in the media, as well as providing an important resource for other women's organisations.

As part of this work we have produced a series of pre-budget briefings on Brexit, Childcare, Education, Employment and Pay, Health, Housing, Pensions, Savings, Social Care, Social Security, Tax and Violence Against Women and Girls.

We have long argued that the Government should be producing equality impact assessments of the budget and have worked cross party with back bench MPs to promote this in parliament.



“The Women’s Budget Group ... have demonstrated how the economy can work for women as well as men.

The Women’s Equality Party rely on their expertise throughout this manifesto.”

The Women’s Equality Party
2017 Manifesto

“Work by the Women’s Budget Group ... shows how it is both possible and desirable

to measure the individual and cumulative impact of economic policies on different groups in society. It is a matter of mindset, not maths, to choose not to do so.”

Stella Creasy MP in the Guardian
December 2017

“It will not surprise Members to hear the first female Chair of the Treasury Committee saying that my Committee will take written evidence, including from the Women’s Budget Group, on the merits of [gender budgeting] analysis.”

Nicky Morgan MP Chair of the Treasury Select Committee
in a debate on Budget Resolutions, November 2017

Intersectional impact of austerity

In partnership with the Runnymede Trust we launched our landmark report *Intersecting Inequalities* in October 2017.


This looked at the cumulative impact of changes to taxes, benefits and public spending on services since 2010 on Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women.

The report is part of an ongoing project by the Women's Budget Group and the Runnymede Trust to analyse the impact of government Budgets and spending reviews by gender, race and income.

It was researched and written with the help of two local partners; Coventry Women's Voices in Coventry and RECLAIM in Manchester.

For BME women, gender inequalities intersect with and compound racial inequalities making these women particularly vulnerable to cuts to benefits, tax credits and public services.

As a result of cuts and changes to tax, benefits and services, by 2020...



Lone mothers (who represent 92% of lone parents) will experience an average drop in living standards of...

18%
(£8,790)

19%

20%

Black and Asian households in the lowest fifth of incomes experience the biggest average drop in living standards of 19.2% and 20.1%, respectively.

General Election 2017

After a snap general election was called in 2017, WBG sprang into action, working with a coalition of women's organisations to raise the profile of gender equality and women's human rights during the election campaign.

As part of this work, we analysed the leading political parties' manifestos from a gender perspective and organised a special women's hustings event to give candidates the opportunity to answer questions on...

How the government planned to defend women's rights post-Brexit

How the government intended to tackle the pay gap, misogyny and gender-based violence

What the government would do about equal representation and ensuring women weren't hardest hit by spending cuts

'Missing 8 million' women say they are uncertain about voting

We also produced a series of infographics highlighting important issues for women at the election and hosted these, along with other campaigning resources, on a dedicated microsite:

www.ge2017forwomen.uk

52% of young women feel STEM subjects seem 'more for boys'

Whether it's public services, rights at work, violence against women or Brexit, we continue to hold MPs from across the political spectrum to account, producing robust analysis and aiming to influence the people making policy.

International work

The work of the WBG is not solely confined to the UK. We are keen to build capacity around feminist economic policy and strategy at an international level where possible.

Gender Budgeting casebook

Over the past 12 months we have put together a casebook based on our history and experiences of gender responsive budgeting (GRB).

The casebook is written from the perspective of a non-government organisation and will be particularly useful for civil society organisations or networks around the world who want to develop similar projects on gender-equitable economic planning and budgeting in their context.

The casebook includes information on different aspects of gender responsive budgeting; case studies which highlight the lessons that can be learnt from our experiences in the UK; and links to on-line resources. The casebook is available in digital version via the WBG website.

Organisational capacity-building on gender budgeting

We have worked with Oxfam to produce resources to inform their developing work on gender-responsive budgeting. As part of this work we have written briefing materials on GRB and delivered training in Vietnam and Morocco and via webinars for Oxfam staff and partners.

“The work of the UK Women’s Budget Group has heavily influenced my own work on Gender Budgeting Analysis in Canada,

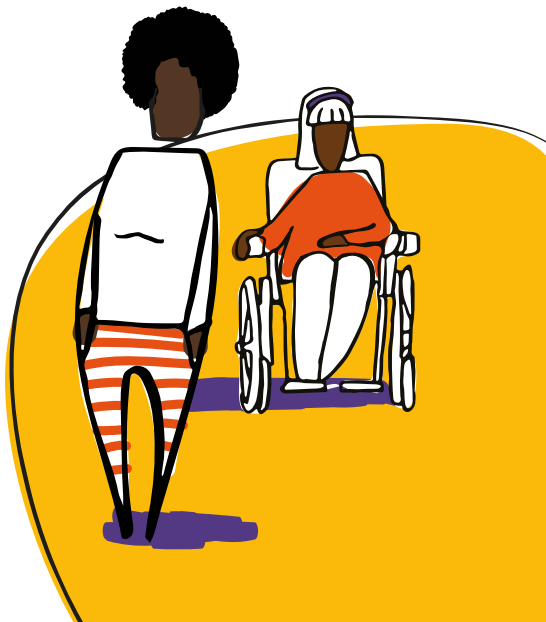
informing discussions

that led to the 2018 Canadian federal budget (termed a gender equality budget).”

Kate Bezanson
Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Brock University Canada

Worldwide

Over the year members of the Women’s Budget Group have spoken at events in Canada, Columbia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Korea, Lebanon, Morocco, New Zealand, Vietnam and Zambia.



Local work

Supporting women to engage with economic decision-makers

From 2016-17 WBG ran workshops in Bristol, Manchester, Glasgow and London to help build the capacity of feminists and other activists to speak confidently about economic issues, organise to influence policy and open up dialogue with those in power.

There were workshops on; equality and the Scottish government, economic development in the West of England, women and the housing crisis, and how the 'Northern Powerhouse' might deliver for women. Local decision-makers were invited to speak in each session.

As part of this project, WBG also developed a set of introductory resources on feminist economics to raise awareness among new and emerging activists. These were disseminated to feminist student societies and activist groups across the country and are available to download for free from our website:

www.wbg.org.uk/resources/what-is-feminist-economics



Working with women in Coventry

WBG is working with the Coventry Women's Partnership, a project which brings together organisations working across employability, health, legal rights and domestic and sexual violence in Coventry, to improve the way these organisations work together to support women locally.

WBG is responsible for carrying out research into the main issues facing service users. Over the three-year life of the project we will produce six reports with initial research exploring the causes and consequences of women's poverty, and the impact of funding cuts on the women's sector.

Brexit

Brexit is likely to have different impacts on different groups of women and men as a result of differences in economic position, caring responsibilities and political power.

In March 2018, with the Fawcett Society we published our report, *Exploring the economic impact of Brexit on women*. This examined the impact of Brexit on women as workers, as consumers and as users of public services.

There is strong evidence that the overall impact of Brexit on UK GDP will be negative and that a no deal 'Hard Brexit' would be the most damaging.

As workers women in sectors dependent on trade with the EU will be affected by increased barriers to trade. Much of the legislation protecting equality and workplace rights that women benefit from originated in, or was strengthened through, the EU.

If the Government decides to cut public spending in response to lower GDP this

will hit women hardest because women are more likely to use public services, more likely to work in the public sector and more likely to have to take on additional unpaid work when public services are lost.

If tariffs on food are increased, leading to rising prices, this will hit the poorest households hardest. Women are the main managers of family budgets and the shock-absorbers of poverty and tend to bear the brunt of poverty's worst effects.

WBG has called for a full gender impact assessment of UK trade deals with the EU and other countries. We have argued that the government should act to prepare for the economic impact of Brexit through investment, particularly in social infrastructure.



“It is widely accepted – as the Women’s Budget Group has repeatedly pointed out – that investment in care creates **twice as many jobs as investment in construction.”**

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About us and donate

WBG produces highly-respected, rigorous analysis of UK Government policy and Budgets.

Our work is regularly cited in Parliamentary debates, in the media and by leading academics. We rely heavily on the expert pro-bono contributions of our members, which we calculated were worth 270,000 days in 2017!

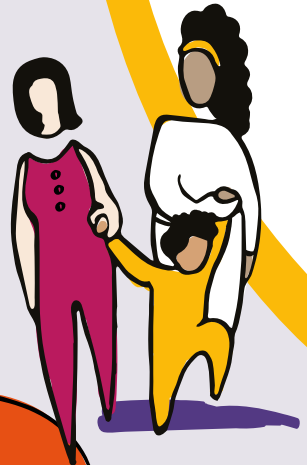
We are an independent and not-for-profit organisation, and we would like to thank our supporters and funders for their ongoing support, which this year allowed us to grow our small staff team, extend our reach and increase our output. For details on how to donate to the WBG or to set up a monthly standing order, please visit our website: www.wbg.org.uk/donate

Join us

Membership is free and open to anyone with an interest in our work. You can sign up here:

www.wbg.org.uk/join-womens-budget-group

Members are encouraged to feed in their skills and expertise by contributing to briefings, taking part in analysing the annual budget and acting as ambassadors for the WBG at events.



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Find out more

Visit our website: www.wbg.org.uk

Email us: admin@wbg.org.uk

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