Reading List

Equality, Human Rights, Poverty, Welfare and Third Sector

Date: May 2016
The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.
Equality, Human Rights, Poverty, Welfare and the Third Sector

Equality and Human Rights
The following Research Service blog posts are a good place to start in exploring the current state of equality and human rights in Wales. There are specific posts on topical issues such as domestic abuse, age discrimination, refugees, women in public life, hate crime and human trafficking.

Equality
- How can Wales maximise the contribution of women to the economy, June 2015.
- A world obsessed with age and stereotypical views of older people? January 2015.

Human Rights
- How will the Syrian refugee crisis affect Wales? September 2015.
- The Violence Against Women Act – one year on, June 2015.
- Violence against women – what is being done in Wales?, February 2014.
- What is hate crime?, May 2014.
- An important time for children’s rights in Wales, November 2015.
- Is the Welsh Government delivering on children and young people’s rights, June 2015.

The Welsh Government has a range of strategies on equality and human rights, including:
- Strategic Equality Plan and objectives for 2016-20.
- Violence against women – public sector guidance and information on the National Violence Against Women Adviser.
- Anti-slavery plan and annual reports.
- Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents: A Framework for Action.
- Transgender Action Plan.
- Travelling to a better future – gypsy and traveler action plan (March 2016 update).
- Framework for Action on Independent Living for disabled people.
– Increasing diversity in public appointments.
– Community cohesion delivery plan 2016-17 and progress reports.

**Legislation**
– Welsh specific public sector equality duties.

**Welsh Government Equality and Human Rights Forums and Funds**
– Equality and inclusion grant 2014-17 – organisations funded.
– Faith Communities Forum – forum between Welsh Government and faith groups.
– Wales Race Forum.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the equality regulator for Great Britain. The Commission in Wales undertakes a programme of work including research, advising the Assembly and Welsh Government and using its legal powers to improve access to justice.

The Commission’s research includes:
– *An anatomy of economic inequality in Wales* (2014), which is a comprehensive, academic review of inequality data in Wales.
– *Human rights in Wales.*

– The Commission also publishes guidance and monitoring reports on the public sector equality duties in Wales.

In addition, the House of Common’s Library has published a briefing on *The UN Inquiry into the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the UK.*

**Children’s Rights**
– The *Children’s Rights in Wales* website (produced by Save the Children) is designed to help local practitioners, policy makers, managers and strategists develop their understanding of children's rights and how to adopt a children's rights perspective to their work.

– The *Children’s Commissioner’s website* also has a range of information and guidance on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Poverty**
Research Service publications on poverty:
Research Note on Flying Start, March 2014 (PDF 231KB).

Fuel poverty and energy efficiency schemes, April 2015.

Culture and poverty: can culture play a stronger role in delivering social justice in Wales?, November 2014.

Child Poverty update: UK report ‘shows that Britain is on the brink of becoming a permanently divided nation’, October 2014.

Welsh Government Strategies, Documents and Webpages

Building resilient communities: Taking forward the tackling poverty action plan and annual reports.


Communities First.

Advice services – information and advice quality framework for Wales.

Financial inclusion strategy for Wales 2016.


The Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee of the Fourth Assembly undertook a programme of work on poverty in Wales in 2015.

The first report was published in May 2015, and the documents relating to the second part of the inquiry in January 2016 are on the committee’s webpages.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) is a UK-wide social policy and research charity, and works with the Wales-based Bevan Foundation on poverty issues in Wales. The two organisations have published these recent papers on poverty in Wales

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Wales, September 2015.


Towards a Wales free from poverty: emerging ideas, August 2015.

The Public Policy Institute for Wales’s (PPIW) ‘What works in tackling poverty’ project has produced a number of research reports:

Rethinking the Work Programme in Wales.

Quantifying the benefits of early intervention in Wales: A Feasibility Study.

The impact of debt on deprived communities and households.

Approaches to tackling homelessness.

The Impact of Welfare Reforms on Housing Policy in Wales – A Rapid Evidence Review.
Welfare

Welfare is not a devolved issue but it has had a huge impact on the population of Wales. The UK Government website has a useful collection of documents on welfare reform.

The House of Commons Library has also published a number of briefings on welfare, including:

- Impact of the under-occupation deduction from Housing Benefit (social rented housing).
- The Benefit Cap.
- Statistics on migrants and benefits.
- Universal Credit: changes from April 2016.

The Research Service blog post on The Budget – what it means for welfare in Wales from July 2015 provides a summary of the main changes to the welfare system as a result of the 2015 budget.

Other Useful Reports

- Public Accounts Committee of the Fourth Assembly, Responding to Welfare Reform in Wales, July 2015.
- Wales Audit Office, Managing the Impact of Welfare Reform Changes on Social Housing Tenants in Wales, January 2015.
- Sheffield Hallam University, The Local Impact of Welfare Reform in Wales, 2014.

Third Sector

- Welsh Government’s Third Sector Scheme (2014) and Volunteering policy (2015) were both recently revised.


The Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) produces a variety of research on the third sector, including:

- All Wales Database of Voluntary Organisations in Wales (January 2016).
- Third Sector Funding 2013-14 Executive Summary.
- Analysis of the All Wales database of Voluntary Organisations in Wales by county based and county active. (January 2016).