

Social Justice & Fairness Commission

Consultation Toolkit



Introduction

The Social Justice and Fairness Commission was established by SNP Leader Nicola Sturgeon to focus on delivering a route map to the real prize of independence – a truly rich society, with wellbeing at its heart.

The Social Justice and Fairness Commission will help to build the case for independence – showing how, with full powers, Scotland can tackle poverty and create a fairer society.

However, in undertaking this work, the Commission would also be able to identify potential action that could be delivered now, to make Scotland a better place to live for us all. As we look to rebuild from the current crisis created by the pandemic, our work has a vital role to play in harnessing the very best ideas being discussed and distilling them into workable, coherent proposals. Some of these we could take forward now, while others would require independence.

The Commission is led by Shona Robison MSP as Convener and Neil Gray MP as Vice Convener. This is an SNP initiative, but the Commission includes both members and non-members of the SNP.

Remit

The aim of the Social Justice and Fairness Commission is to deliver a route map to the real prize of independence - a new social contract between our government and our citizens. A social contract that will build an inclusive, rights-based society – where everyone is cared for and supported from baby box to grave, in which everyone can fully participate and be given the opportunities they need to flourish.

We want to deliver a Scotland where no one is left behind and no one has to rely on a food bank to eat.

Building on the Scottish Government's commitment to a Wellbeing economy, where we are as focussed on the wellbeing of our society as the performance of our economy, and where we judge our success not just by GDP but by the health and wellbeing of our nation, the Commission will set out how the proceeds of economic growth in an independent Scotland can be shared much more fairly and secure better outcomes.

It will demonstrate how we can use the powers of independence to end poverty, achieve full employment, and drive equality for all including by tackling rural and health inequalities. It will seek reforms that tackle the underlying causes of poverty, recognising that major reforms require implementation strategies.

It will look at how we can be a nation that sets a gold standard for equal pay, and creates opportunity for all of our young people as well as ensuring our older people do not face poverty and loneliness.

It will deliver proposals for a vision of independence that ensures a safe warm home and community for everyone to live in and a fair chance for everyone to get on in life, bringing an end to the shameful Westminster system which in 21st century Scotland leaves people without enough money to feed their families at the end of the week.

Working within the projected revenues of an independent Scotland the Commission will set out key actions that can be taken within the short, medium and long term to begin to deliver social justice and fairness for all.

Consultation

The Social Justice and Fairness Commission is consulting widely as we undertake our work, so that our recommendations reflect a shared vision of where we want to get to, and how best to get there. We want to harness the experience and expertise within the SNP and wider civic society, drawing on existing best practice – both here in Scotland and internationally. Although the Commission is an SNP initiative, we also want to lay the foundations of a cross-party consensus for the future of our country.

Our Approach

The Social Justice and Fairness Commission has established three working groups, to focus on distinct themes.

Secure Income for All

Homes and Communities for All

Health and Wellbeing

Each working group will take a rights based approach and put tackling inequalities and opportunity for all at the heart of their considerations. The relationship between care and work will be fundamental to our wellbeing as a nation, so care will also be a key consideration.

The working groups will focus on how we use the proceeds of economic growth to create a socially just and fair society, but also consider how we protect the most economically vulnerable in leaner times.

The task of each group is to define a long term goal for the kind of society we want to live in, and to make recommendations to the first government of an independent Scotland to achieve that goal.

Your Views

You can feed in your views as an individual or the results of an online group discussion.

At this point in the process, we would like your views on the areas set out below. Please note these questions are a guide, and we would encourage you to tailor these questions for different audiences and according to specific areas of interest or expertise.

Secure Income for All

This working group is focusing on how to deliver a secure income for everyone and eradicate poverty in Scotland, and consider areas such as Social Security, employment, caring responsibilities, equal pay and maternity and paternity rights.

What should be the long term goal under this heading?

What are the key drivers of change to achieve this goal?

What are the key barriers to achieving this goal?

What are we currently doing in Scotland that works, and actively brings us closer to this goal?

What would be your advice to the first government of an independent Scotland?

What measures would the Scottish Government need to prioritise in a second term, and a third?

Homes and Communities for All

This working group is focusing on how to deliver a safe, warm home for all in a sustainable, empowered community.

What should be the long term goal under this heading?

What are the key drivers of change to achieve this goal?

What are the key barriers to achieving this goal?

What are we currently doing in Scotland that works, and actively brings us closer to this goal?

What would be your advice to the first government of an independent Scotland?

What measures would the Scottish Government need to prioritise in a second term, and a third?

Health and Wellbeing

This working group is focusing on our health and wellbeing as a measure of a rich, successful society and will include consideration of mental health, our environment and tackling loneliness.

What should be the long term goal under this heading?

What are the key drivers of change to achieve this goal?

What are the key barriers to achieving this goal?

What are we currently doing in Scotland that works, and actively brings us closer to this goal?

What would be your advice to the first government of an independent Scotland?

What measures would the Scottish Government need to prioritise in a second term, and a third?

Email the results of your group discussion to: consultation@socialjustice.scot

Please follow the structure of the toolkit and subject headings in your responses as far as possible, and keep answers concise. You can reference further suggested reading and links.

In your submission, please note the date of your discussion, number of participants and details of organisations represented.