

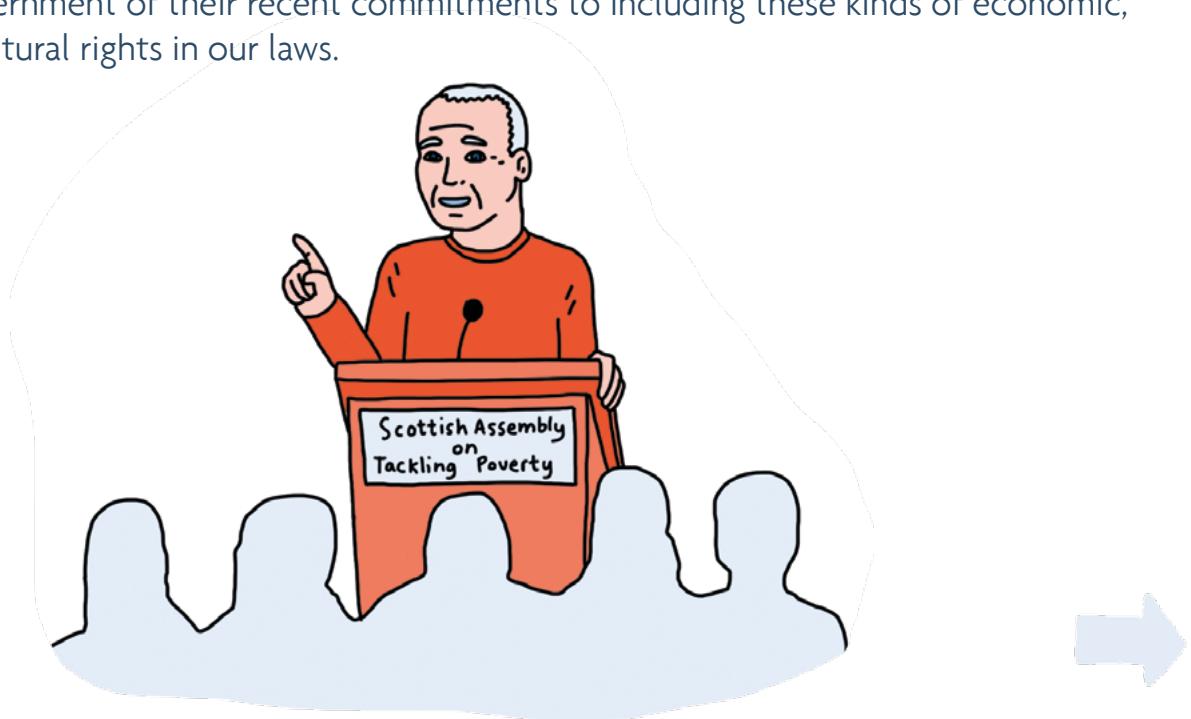


# Human rights in practice: Poverty

Human rights say that there are certain things we all need to live a life of dignity - including a warm, dry house, the chance to work, nutritious food and access to healthcare and social security. Human rights laws place responsibilities on governments to make sure that everyone can have these. So, while poverty has often been viewed as the problem of individuals, human rights law reminds us that government policy decisions have a big impact on levels of poverty.

Poverty is not just about a lack of income. It's also about not having the power to make choices or have your voice heard. Taking a human rights based approach means making sure that the people who are most affected by poverty understand that they are protected by human rights law. It also means giving them a seat at the table to change things for the better. With this in mind, as part of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights, the Scottish Human Rights Commission has been working with a group of people with lived experience of poverty to come together and discuss the issues they care about, with a view to influencing change. Members come from all over Scotland and have a range of experiences to draw on. The group has worked to understand issues such as the effect of the welfare reform agenda on the realisation of disabled people's rights or the rising number of food banks in the context of the right to adequate, nutritious food.

Most recently, the group has given its views to the Scottish Government on the new social security powers coming to Scotland. The group were disappointed that the recent social security consultation did not refer to the right to social security set out in international human rights law. They told the Scottish Government that human rights should be at the heart of the new system, embedded in its principles and outcomes. They also reminded the Scottish Government of their recent commitments to including these kinds of economic, social and cultural rights in our laws.



# Human rights in practice: Poverty

## = Adequate standard of living =

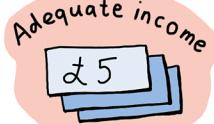
Poverty is a human rights issue.

International human rights laws set the standard for what we all need to live in dignity. Putting these into practice will help governments meet their obligations to tackle poverty and better enable those living in poverty to make their own choices and have their voices heard.



As part of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP), a group of people from across Scotland who have lived in poverty shared their experiences to influence change for the better.

## Our concerns



### Our rights to:

- Food
- Adequate housing
- Adequate income
- Accessibility
- Participate



Rural Poverty

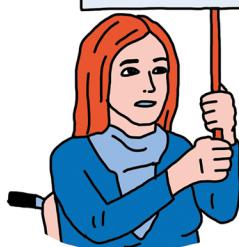
and more...

Think differently:  
Adequate standard  
of living is a  
human right

## Participation

In autumn 2016 we applied our experiences of poverty and knowledge of human rights to influence the government's Social Security Consultation.

Social Security is a human right!



## Empowerment

Poverty is a human rights issue!



## Accountability

We hold our local areas to account for their actions to tackle poverty.

This does not include the voices of people affected by poverty and cannot act on their concerns



= To be continued...



This case study has been produced as part of  
Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP)

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