

Ruth Maguire
Convener
Equalities and Human Rights Committee
Scottish Parliament
By e-mail

May 4th 2020

Dear Convener

Briefing from the Adequate Standard of Living Reference Group on the impact of responses to COVID 19

As you may be aware, the Scottish Human Rights Commission supports and works with a Reference Group of people with lived experience of poverty from across Scotland. The group was first formed to inform and guide relevant actions as part of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights and has been meeting regularly for several years. The group are experts in poverty and in rights based approaches to tackling poverty.

The group's membership is diverse, both geographically and in terms of lived experience of different dimensions of poverty. The experiences of group members during the last few weeks will reflect those of many other people across Scotland. The group are keen that their experiences should inform both policy and scrutiny of the responses in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the group advocate that legislation and regulations should be scrutinised in terms of their impact on people's economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to food and the right to health.

The group members have therefore given the Commission permission to share their initial experiences, reflections and recommendations with the Committee, as a contribution to your Inquiry into COVID-19 and human rights. This briefing is attached.

The Commission will also publish this briefing and letter on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Chloë Trew

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Policy and Participation Officer, on behalf of the members of the Adequate Standard of Living Reference Group