



How fair is Britain?

**Summary of:
The Equality and Human Rights
Commission Triennial Review 2010**

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About this report



**Equality and
Human Rights
Commission**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have written this information.



It is our job to make sure everyone follows the laws on treating people equally and fairly.



We work to make sure people:

- get their human rights. Human rights are the rights that every person has.



- get on better together



- have the same chance to do well



- have the same chance to take part in society.



Every 3 years we have to write a report to tell Parliament how things are going.

This is our first report.



We want to show what is happening for real people and whether things are fair for everyone.



You can find out more on our website:

www.equalityhumanrights.com

What is happening in Britain?



There have been big changes in Britain in the last 20 or 30 years:

- lots of different people live and work here



- more children have parents who come from different countries



- there are more older people



- it is easier for people to speak up about being different.



We are better at understanding people who are different from us.



Some people now have better lives and the chance to do well.



But things are not better for everyone.



Some groups like Gypsies and Travellers and some people who move to Britain are still treated unfairly.



This report talks about:

- things that are going well



- things that are still unfair for some people



- our ideas for making things better.

How we wrote this report



We collected information about the choices and lives of different people.



We thought about their:

- age



- gender (if they are a man or a woman)



- disability



- race



- religion or belief



- sexual orientation (if they are straight, gay, lesbian or bisexual)



- transgender.

Transgender people are people who want to change from being a man to a woman, or from a woman to a man.

Then we looked at what was happening for these different groups of people in:



- life



- feeling safe and being safe



- health



- education



- work



- where they live and the money they have



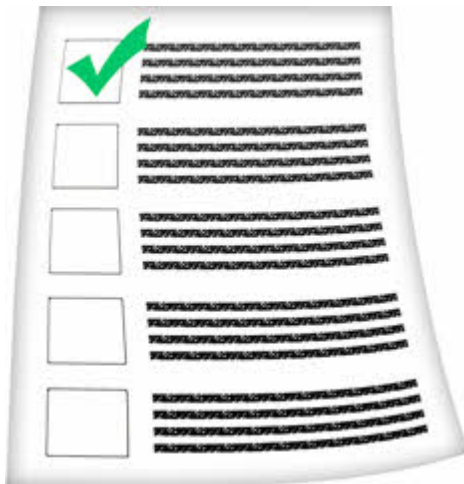
- care and support



- having power and being able to speak up.



This showed some groups are doing better than others.



It helped us see what needs to change so all groups have the same chances to do well.

What we found out



1. Life

People in Britain are living for much longer than they did 100 years ago.



This is because most people have more money and better health care, housing and food.



But some groups are not doing as well as others.



Babies from some ethnic groups are more likely to die before they are 1 year old.



Generally, men do not live as long as women.

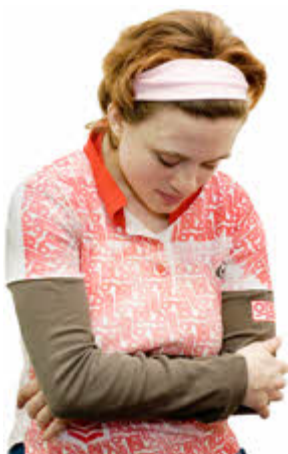
2. Feeling safe and being safe

There is less violent crime in Britain but things are not better for everyone.



Some groups feel less safe than others.

For example:



- women who are raped or attacked, often by someone they know



- people who are attacked because of things like their disability, religion or being gay or lesbian.



People do not always tell the police about these crimes.



Some people do not trust the police to keep them safe or treat them unfairly:

- black people seem to be stopped and searched by the police more than other groups



- people with learning disabilities sometimes feel the police do not believe them if they report a crime.



There are high numbers of people from ethnic minority groups in prison.



Lots of people who go to prison have:

- learning disabilities



- mental health problems



- been in care



- been abused.

3. Health

Most people in Britain get good care and support for their health.



But some groups can be less healthy:



- older people



- people from Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities



- Muslim people.



This can be because they have less money or live in poorer parts of the country.



People from some groups or who live in some parts of the country are more likely to get certain illnesses.



For example, more people in Scotland die from heart disease than anywhere else in Europe.

4. Education

A good education can give you better chances in life. Many groups are doing much better than they did in the past.



But it is not the same for everyone:



- at school, boys do not do as well as girls



- children from poorer families do not do as well



- disabled students do not do as well as people who are not disabled



- children who are bullied often leave school early and do not go to college or university.

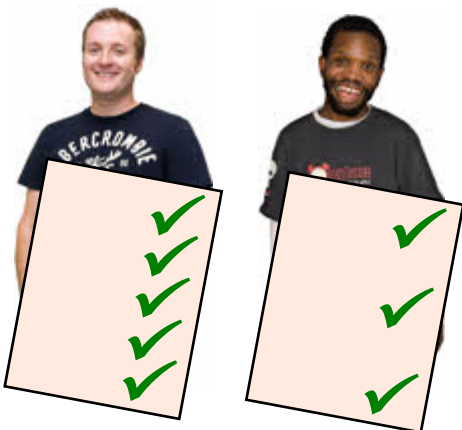


People from some groups or some parts of the country find reading, writing and numbers more difficult than others.



More people have the chance to go to college and university but:

- more men than Black students or women go to the best universities



- white students often get better marks than Black students.

5. Work



More women and people from ethnic minority groups have jobs than 10 years ago.



A lot of women now do jobs that used to be done by men.

Some people still find it difficult to get work.



These include:

- people with a disability



- Muslim women



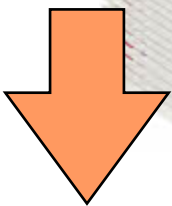
- young Muslim people



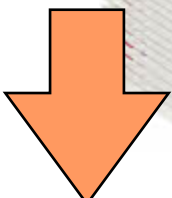
- young Black people.



Although women often do better than men in school or university, they earn less money.



Disabled people and those from some ethnic communities also earn less money than other groups.



6. Where people live and the money they have



There is a big gap between the richest and poorest people in Britain.



Some groups of people do not have as much money.



This can mean they:

- live in poor housing



- live in places where there is a lot of crime



- have worse health than other people



- do not live as long as other people.



This can happen because they did not do as well at school or they do jobs that pay less than others.



For example:

- women often earn less money so get smaller pensions when they retire



- disabled people often earn less money or have to spend more on things because of their disability



- Asian and Black people are more likely to live in crowded homes.

7. Care and support

Many people care for someone in their family, like:



- a child



- someone who is ill or disabled



- a parent who is getting older and needs more help.



Sometimes people choose to care.

Sometimes they have to do it because care services do not meet their needs.



A lot of carers are women. Some care for a child as well as for someone older.



Children who go to a good nursery or other childcare learn better and this can help them get on in life.



But some children are less likely to have this type of childcare:

- children from poorer families
- children from Bangladeshi or Pakistani families





- disabled children



- children whose parents do not work



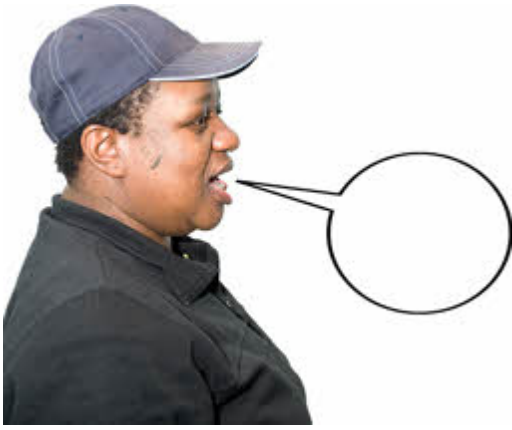
- children with only one parent.



Some children care for their parents. This is more likely for children from some ethnic groups.



A lot of disabled people care for each other.



8. Having power and being able to speak up

Everyone who lives in Britain has the right to have a say about what happens here.



But some groups of people are less likely to:

- vote
- be chosen to speak up for other people in their area
- feel they can get involved in their local area.





Although more women vote than men, there are a lot more men in Parliament.



There are also fewer people from most religious and ethnic groups in Parliament.



The Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament seem better than the English Parliament at involving different groups.



Lots of different groups, including gay, lesbian and bisexual people feel they can get involved and change things in their local area.



But young people seem to be getting less involved.

Changing things



Although we did not have clear information about everything, we can see that some groups of people are not treated fairly.

They do not have the same chances in life as other people.



We need to work on the 5 most important things first.

These are things that:

- affect people's human rights
- are caused by the way we do things or work together
- affect a lot of people
- will get worse if we do not do something.





1. Links between money, health and how long you live

- people with more money are healthier and live for longer than poorer people. We need to change this.



- babies from some ethnic groups are more likely to die before they are 1 year old. We need to find out why and do something about it.

2. Making sure everyone has the chance to learn and do the best they can



Girls do better than boys at school. We need to find out why and make sure boys and young men have the chance to do better.



Girls and people from some ethnic groups do not go to the best universities.



This might be because they think they will not fit in. We need to change this.



Disabled students do less well at school and university. We need to find out why.



Children from poorer families do less well at school and are less likely to go to university.



We need to give them support to start well and keep up with other pupils.



3. Everyone should have the chance to earn money for themselves and for Britain

Most women still earn less than men and do not have such good jobs.

If we used women's skills properly they would help earn money for Britain.



People from some religious and ethnic groups find it harder to get jobs or are paid less than other people.



This means they have less money to spend and the government often has to support them. We need to look at ways to change this.



We need to look at the things that stop disabled people working so they can earn money and be more independent.



4. Stop hate crime and bullying

We have new laws about hate crime and people need to feel safe enough to report these to the police.



We must stop people who are disabled, lesbian, gay or transgender being bullied at school or work.



Women need to feel safe to tell the police that they have been raped or attacked.



We need to make sure that people do not keep getting attacked by their husband, wife or someone else in the home.



5. More people should be able to speak up for themselves and in their local community

We need to look at ways to give carers and their families more choice and control.



We must make sure public organisations like Parliament are made up of all the different types of people who live in Britain.

What happens next?



These ideas will help us plan our work for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.



Government and society will also have to look at how they can change things.



If we can work together we can make a big difference to people, families and the whole country.



We will carry out our next review in 2013.

This will show us whether Britain really is becoming fairer for everyone who lives here.

Credits



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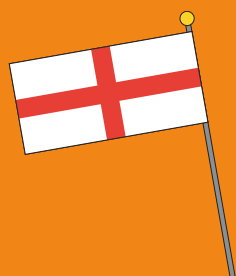


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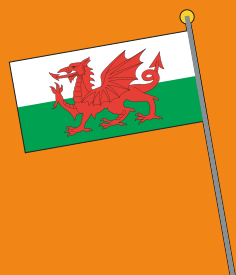
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- They are open Monday to Friday
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