

SCOTLAND'S FIRST POVERTY TRUTH COMMISSION 21ST MARCH 2009

Our central request is a simple one.

We want to be part of the solution, not constantly identified as part of the problem. We call on people to respect us as people and to learn from our wisdom and experience.

In addition:

We know that our neighbourhoods are good places to live and that media portrayals of them are unjust and damaging. We call for the media to share the good news as well as the bad.

In our experience, it is small, local community groups that make the biggest difference. We call for a greater recognition of their contribution as well as long-term funding.

We ask for greater assistance with child care costs, and for this not to be a short term measure.

Gang violence is destroying lives and communities. We seek greater resources to support young people. We know this investment will help young people to fulfill their potential, encourage community and develop leaders.

In our opinion the current Welfare Reform legislation will not work. People really want to work and we call on our governments to work with the unemployed to make it happen.

Parents and carers are doing a job. We call on people in power to work with us as we try to make life as good as possible for the people we look after and love.

We know that it is wrong that where you live determines how much support you get. We call for the introduction of a uniform policy of distributing money across local authorities.

We know that children are best cared for by their own families. We call upon the UK Government to provide *kinship carers* with the same support and resources as they currently offer to foster carers.

We know that people often choose to live with abuse because they are too afraid to do anything else. We plead for adequate support services so that when people are brave enough to speak out they know they'll be safe and supported.

We congratulate our governments for their commitment to end child poverty. We call on them to put as much energy into this task as they have into the current banking crisis.

Powerful people sit around tables and make policies about us. We ask for the right to be around those tables and to help to make the best possible decisions.

We know the crippling impact debt has on people's lives. We call on all who can to take tougher action to outlaw predatory lending to low income consumers.

We congratulate Glasgow City Council on its decision to commit to paying all employees a *Living Wage* of at least £7 per hour and call on other employers to follow suit.

