



**CREATING  
A FAIRER  
SCOTLAND**

**WHAT  
MATTERS  
TO YOU?**



**Scotland is a great country to call home. But we can make it an even better place. Achieving this will require a strong competitive economy and a fairer, more equal society. The two go hand in hand.**

Right now people across Scotland are working to that end. But we believe that together we can do even more to secure better opportunities for all of us and for future generations.

To get there, more of us need to join the conversation that is already happening about the kind of Scotland we want to see in the future. We hope this leaflet, and the discussion that follows, will help to do that. It describes some of the successes and challenges in Scotland today and a few ideas about what a fairer Scotland could look like. We want you to share your ideas as well, to tell us what matters to you.

By the end of 2015 we want to have created opportunities for the widest possible range of voices to be heard. This will include a series of events in the autumn that brings together people from across the country to discuss what practical steps we need to take to create a fairer Scotland.

The Scottish Government will respond to these ideas, and the wider conversation, setting out what we will do to help create a better Scotland. We hope others will do the same.

So go on, it's our Scotland, it's time to have your say on our future.

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Scotland is a great place to live and work, and there is much we can be optimistic about. But together we can make things even better.

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Scotland is a wealthy country, with a higher GDP per head than the UK



1 in 6 people in Scotland live in poverty. And 20 times as many people in Scotland now use food banks as in 2011/12



We have a high employment rate



In-work poverty is increasing: over half of working age adults in poverty now live in households with at least one adult in employment



The gap in pay between men and women has fallen considerably

**YET**

Women still get paid less than men. For every £1 a man earns, a woman earns 83p



The vast majority of children starting primary school don't show any signs of social, emotional or behavioural difficulties

**STILL**

Children from families with the lowest incomes are at least twice as likely to show signs of social, emotional and behavioural issues as those from families with the highest incomes



The attainment level of our school pupils has increased by a fifth since 2007/8

**YET**

School pupils from our most deprived areas do only half as well as pupils from our least deprived areas

## WHERE WE ARE TODAY



We are living longer, healthier lives

BUT

People from our most deprived areas live on average 10 years less than those in our least deprived areas



The number of crimes in Scotland has fallen by almost a quarter since 2008/9

BUT

The risk of being a victim of crime is still higher for adults in our most deprived communities than elsewhere in Scotland



Three out of four Scots feel there are people in their local area they could turn to for advice and support

YET

People who feel the least socially connected to others in their area are almost twice as likely to have low life satisfaction as people who feel the most socially connected

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By 2030 Scotland is a place where people are healthier, happier and treated with respect, and where opportunities, wealth and power are spread more equally.

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## WHERE WE'D LIKE TO BE IN 2030





I get a fair working wage which allows a decent standard of living.

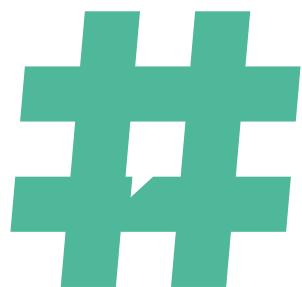
I know I can rely on a fair and simple social security system.

I can get access to justice quickly and at reasonable cost.

I am not charged a higher price for services, such as electricity, just because of my circumstances.

There are plenty of local facilities and activities, which are looked after and provide things for me and my family to do.

There is more affordable housing allowing me and my family to rent or own a decent and warm property.



#fairerscotland  
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We want you to share your thoughts and ideas - here are a few questions to get you thinking:

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- What are the issues that matter most to you?
  - What do you think needs to be done to create a fairer Scotland?
  - How can you and your community play a role in helping to shape our future?
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Why not share your views at home, with your friends or at work.

Or you can join in the discussions online at:

[www.fairer.scot](http://www.fairer.scot)

 [@scotgovfairer](https://twitter.com/scotgovfairer)  
[#fairerscotland](#)

 [fairer.scot](https://www.facebook.com/fairer.scot)

Or write to us via email at:

[Fairer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Fairer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Or post a letter to us using:

**FREEPOST FAIRER SCOTLAND**

We are committed to ensuring as many people as possible can take part in this conversation. If you have ideas on how we can make the process more accessible for you, such as producing materials in a different format or language, please get in touch via one of the channels above.



**The Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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