

Osborne & his team propose 'stealth tax' on women

Absolutely inadequate gendered analysis ... What about the women and children?

Osborne and his team propose what is essentially a 'stealth tax' on women's work. The CSR Report is quantitatively gender-blind, but women's unpaid caring work will inevitably be called upon to replace public service cuts. Independent analysis of the emergency budget shows that women are shouldering 72% of its cost, although the government provided no gender analysis. Again we ask, **What about the women and children?**

The government has again produced inadequate gender analysis of the impact of expenditure cuts. In the absence of such analysis, which the government has a legal duty to carry out, we note:

- Cuts to local government services and job loss in the public sector equate to **less service, fewer jobs and more domestic burden for women.**
- Women make up 2/3 of public sector workers, thus will suffer disproportionately from the predicted 500,000 job losses. In local authorities, who are to take the biggest cut, women make up 68% of the workforce.

Sue Himmelweit, of the UK Women's Budget Group, explains:

The biggest overall cut is in local government at a cumulative 27% by 2014-5. Local government provides many of the essential personal services that women and their families need. Women are the ones most likely to make up the shortfall in these services by their own unpaid efforts in the home, in some cases reducing their own employment and income to make that possible. Women are 68% of those employed by local authorities so this cut is likely to impact disproportionately on women's employment too.

The UK Women's Budget Group is a network of over 200 academics and activists. For more information, please contact, Jillian Foster, the Coordinator of the UK Women's Budget Group. By email at info@wbg.org.uk or by phone at 075 7623 5554.