

Is Britain Fairer?

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Commission

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The state of equality and
human rights 2018

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Assessed by nine protected characteristics:



Education



**Living
Standards**



Work



Health



**Justice &
Personal
Security**



Participation

The picture is mixed.

- Britain in danger of becoming ‘**two-speed society**’ – some groups being forgotten and trapped in disadvantage.
- Progress made in some areas. But prospects for **disabled people, some ethnic minorities, and children from poorer backgrounds** worsened in many areas of life.
- Socioeconomic disadvantage becoming **entrenched**, and regression on justice and personal security.
- Employment seen positives, but **a mixed picture**.
- **Critical time** to measure progress on equality and human rights.



Progress

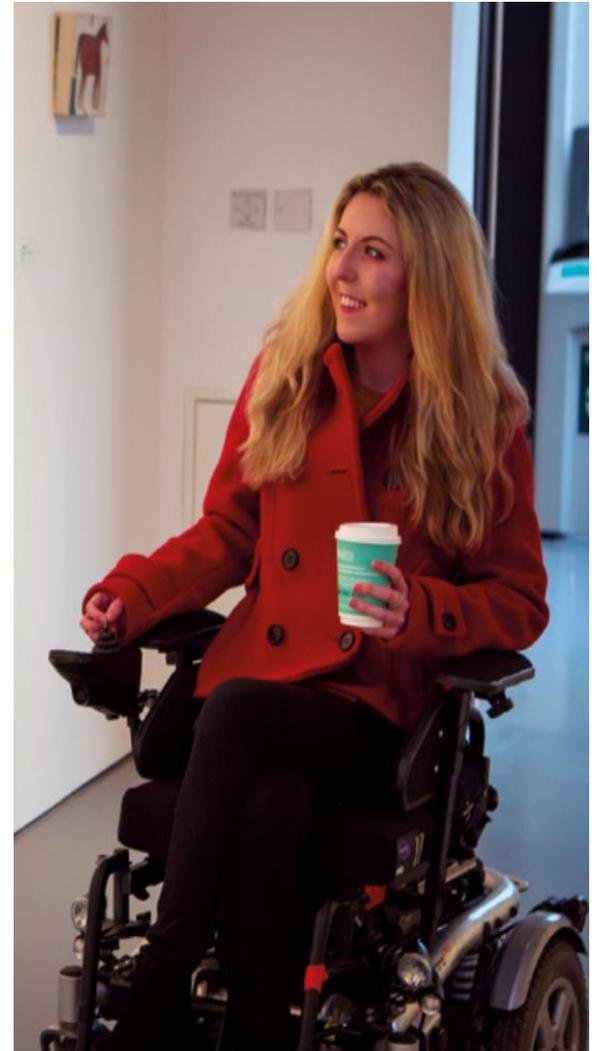
- Improvements in education, political participation and work.
- Primary level attainment overall improved, with gaps narrowing.
- More ethnic minorities and people from disadvantaged areas getting degrees
- More women and some ethnic minorities in employment and more women in higher pay occupations.
- Gender pay gap continues to decrease.
- People are also getting more involved in politics and voting.
- More disabled and older people online.

However, some ethnic minorities are falling further behind.

- Black African, Bangladeshi and Pakistani people still most likely to live in poverty, and Black Caribbean people to experience severe deprivation.
- Black people have low trust in criminal justice system.
- Some groups still behind on employment – for example Pakistani and Bangladeshi people. But Indian people succeed at education and work.
- Ethnicity pay gap 5.7% - but improvements for some.
- Gypsy, Roma and Travellers and other groups particularly excluded across multiple areas of life.

And so are disabled people.

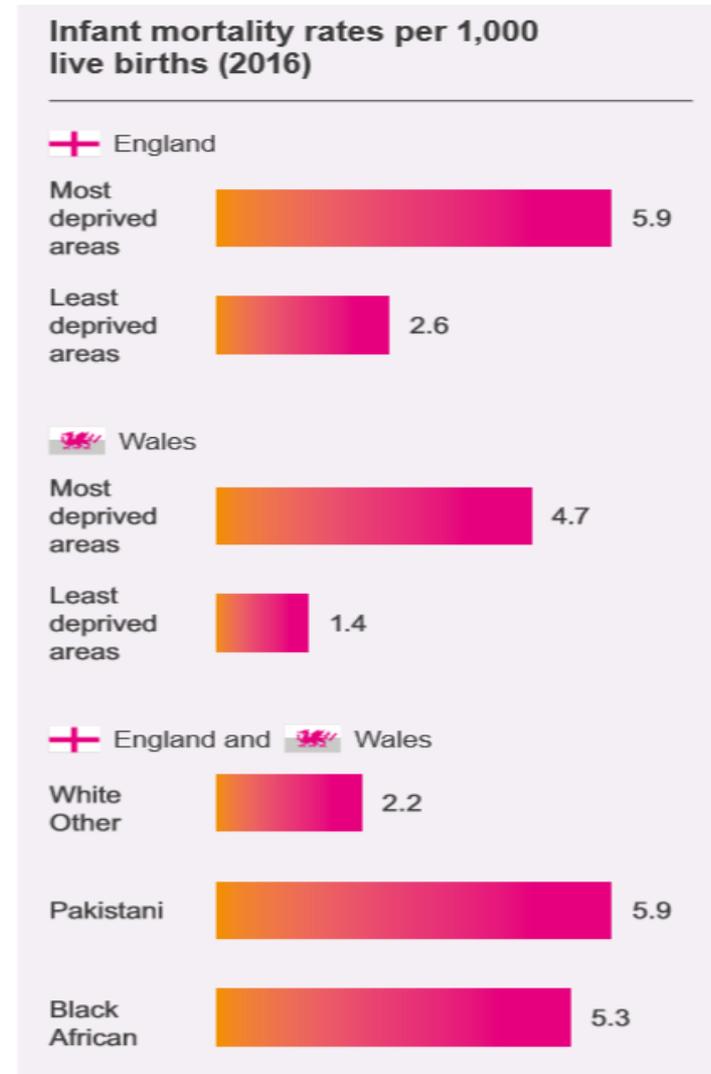
- Disabled people increasingly excluded, from education throughout life.
- School segregation an issue.
- Less likely to be employed, and more likely to be in low-paid work (disability pay gap: 13.6%)
- More likely to be in poverty, face poorer health, and be unable to access to suitable housing.



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Living standards

- Socioeconomic disadvantage becoming entrenched for some. In 2016 one fifth of British adults (19.6%) lived in relative poverty
- Child poverty increased, and infant mortality risen for first time in decades.
- Tax and welfare reforms continue to disproportionately impact poorest in society.
- Homelessness also on the rise.



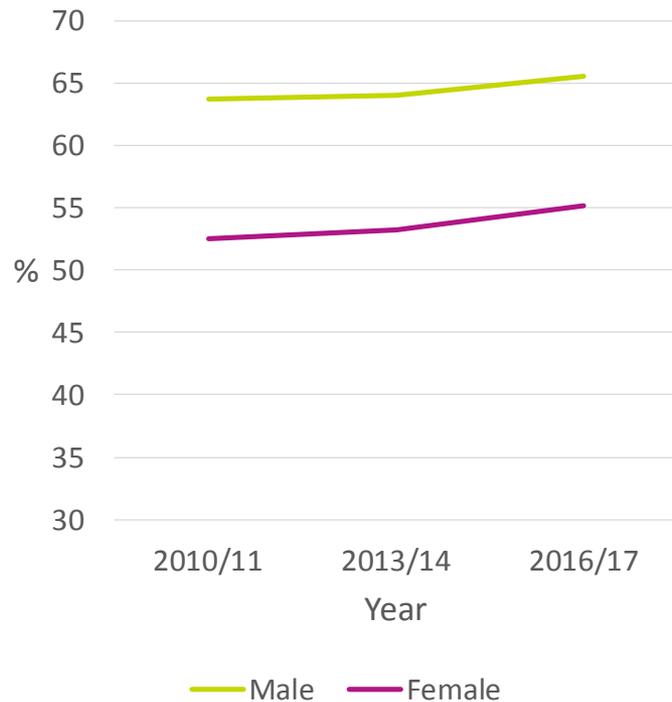
Backwards steps on Justice and Personal Security

- Access to Justice restricted through courts modernisation and in reductions in legal aid.
- Increasing risks to personal security:
 - spikes in hate crime around specific events
 - Rises in recorded sexual/domestic violence for some groups
 - Deteriorating detention conditions
 - Black people still over-represented in prison system
 - Only EU country with indefinite immigration detention

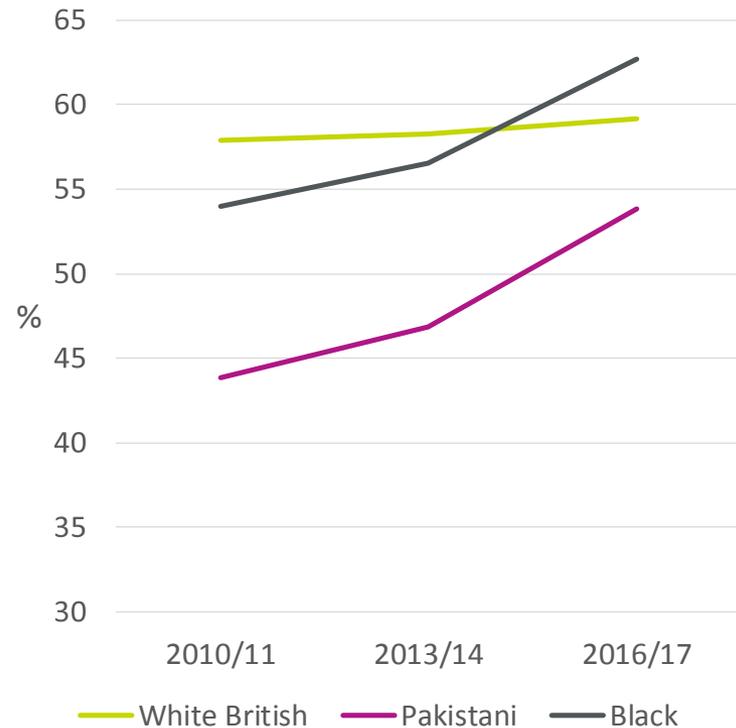


Progress in employment

Employment rate (GB) – women and men

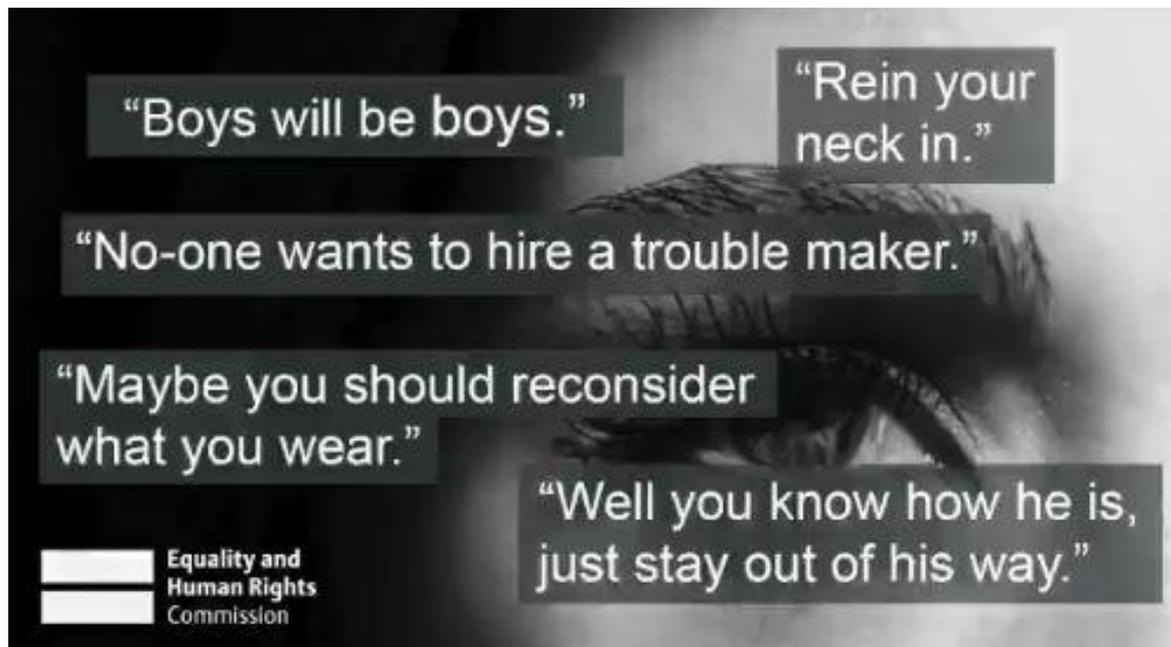


Employment rate (GB) – select ethnic groups



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Challenges persist for women at work



What can we do?

- Our recommendations span three themes.
 - **Strong equality and human rights infrastructure** (Equality Act 2010, post-Brexit rights and protections)
 - **Changes to specific policies** to address key legislative gaps and problems
 - **Building understanding and evidence** across protected characteristics
- Progress continues to be possible – and everyone has a role to play.

Thank you