

food poverty research - the wider picture:

By date

‘Beyond the Food Bank?’

*Liz Dowler, of the Food Ethics Council, and also member of the Iona Community <https://iona.org.uk>, passes on this recent resource (Ed. the Coracle): From **Lacuna Magazine** <http://lacuna.org.uk>:*

Lacuna Magazine is turning its attention to charitable food assistance and hunger in the UK, in a special edition entitled: ‘Beyond the Food Bank?’

Part 1 focuses primarily on developments within the Trussell Trust network. In [Foodbank futures](#),

James Harrison explores how the strategies and ambitions of Trussell Trust foodbanks have changed in recent years, and notes a striking diversity of approaches even within the Trussell Trust network.

In our second feature, Kayleigh Garthwaite asks:

When did emergency food provision stop being so ... emergency?

Garthwaite highlights the complex issues that can force people to rely on food aid and discusses initiatives that have been developed by the Trussell Trust and other community organisations in an attempt to address these longer-term issues, before arguing that ultimately there needs to be a more serious mobilisation against the structural causes of food poverty.

Alec Spencer, Development Officer at West Cheshire Foodbank, reflects on

Four years of food parcels

and expresses unease about the widening gaps in the welfare safety net. He also talks about some of the innovative work that is being done in the region to try to move ‘beyond food parcels’.

Finally, in [Hand to mouth](#),

Ben Richardson, Associate Professor in International Political Economy in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick, takes a broader look at the relationship between insecure work and people’s diets. He examines the ways in which irregular working hours and the loss of workers’ rights have affected people’s access to healthy food and looks at possible responses to the issue.

UNICEF Report; Britain Worst in Europe for Children’s Hunger June 27, 2017

This June’s UNICEF report should have shocked Britain into action. Britain has the highest level of children brought up in **severe** food poverty in Europe.

On the 15th of June 2017, the United Nation’s Children’s Fund (UNICEF) published the first global estimates of food insecurity among households with children under the age of 15. The report should raise serious alarm bells for policy makers in the UK.

Being **food secure** means being sure of your ability to secure enough food of sufficient quality and quantity, to allow you to stay healthy and participate in society.

Food **insecurity** has varying degrees of severity.

Moderate stages involve worry about whether there will be enough food, followed by compromising quality, variety and quantity of food.

More **severe** stages involve going without food and experiencing hunger due.

The analysis – based on robust survey data collected by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation – indicates that **one in five children in the UK live with an adult who is moderately or severely food insecure; one in ten live with a severely food insecure adult.**

By either measure, this reveals that **the UK is one of the most food insecure nations for children in the European Union.** <http://endhungeruk.org/unicef-report-britain-worst-europe-childrens-hunger/>

The Dignity Project - 2017

Nourish Scotland and the Poverty Truth Commission are working together to develop a Dignity Framework with and for community food providers - with funding from the Fair Food Transformation Fund. It is hoped that this Framework can be a tool for community food providers and community members to consider how placing dignity at the heart of community food provision can support a transition away from emergency food aid as a primary response to food insecurity. Find out more on the [Nourish Scotland website](http://www.nourishscotland.org/the-dignity-project/).
<http://www.nourishscotland.org/the-dignity-project/>

DIGNITY - ENDING HUNGER TOGETHER IN SCOTLAND

by independent Working Group on Food Poverty

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/8020>

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/8020/downloads>

Published by The Scottish Government, June 2016

... Bridging the Gap <http://www.bridging-the-gap.org/>

Woodlands Community Garden <http://www.woodlandscommunitygarden.org.uk/>

and Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership <http://www.lcfhp.co.uk/>

are all excellent examples of the broader approach which we consider to be essential.

They have all been in development over many years, illustrative that this model is not new but now needs to be given increased momentum and opportunity to develop. At an international level, and in a policy context where foodbanks have become largely integrated into the welfare system, the pioneering work of

The Stop (Toronto, Canada) <http://thestop.org/>

demonstrates the potential long-term impact of this approach.⁵⁸

The Scottish Government can encourage this movement through the funding that it provides, including through the Fair Food Fund, to emergency food providers. Through the funding of organisations over a number of years

... FINAL WORD:

There is nothing inevitable about food insecurity and hunger in Scotland. It can and must be eradicated. To do so will require energy and commitment. It will involve making sure that people have more money in their pockets, better food in their stomachs and feel more fully a part of a dignified movement that will strive together to end hunger in Scotland.

Original short voice pops, text, from people affected by food poverty:

voices from margin

<https://voicesfromthemargins.org.uk/2017/05/12/scotland-i-am-a-person/>

<http://endhungeruk.org> - Now till 2018

End Hunger UK is supported by all of the major organisations working to tackle food poverty and food injustice in the UK, including Child Poverty Action Group, Church Action on Poverty, Fabian Commission on Food and Poverty, FareShare, First Steps Nutrition, Food Ethics Council, Nourish Scotland, Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming, The Food Foundation, The Trussell Trust.

Food banks outside of the Trussell Trust network have been opening at an extraordinary and unmeasured rate. New research by the Independent Food Aid Network, featured in [The Guardian newspaper](#) on the **29th May 2017**, revealed that there are at least 651 independently run food banks operating across the UK. This number has now risen to 672.

For years we have looked to the Trussell Trust to indicate the scale of food aid in this country but there's a great deal more to the story. These figures show that the number of food banks in the UK is much higher than previously estimated.

<http://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk>

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk> :

Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. We work in partnership with churches and with people in poverty themselves to Close the Gap between rich and poor, and challenge the stigmatisation of people in poverty.

[**16 October 2016: Churches call for 'big conversation' on UK hunger**](#)

[**Hear Niall discuss poverty and food banks**](#)

Listen to a BBC Radio programme with our Coordinator Niall discussing poverty and food banks.

 [**appeal**](#)

UN report on food poverty 2016

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf>

Food Foundation report 2016 - UK

<http://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/FoodInsecurityBriefing-May-2016-FINAL.pdf>

Too Poor to Eat - Food insecurity in the UK

New UN data show that an estimated 8.4 million people, the equivalent of entire population of London, were living in households reporting having insufficient food in the UK in 2014, the 6th largest economy in the world.

- 5.6% of people aged 15 or over in the UK reported struggling to get enough food to eat and a further 4.5% reported that, at least once, they went a full day without anything to eat.

- The UK ranks in the bottom half of European countries.

July 2016: **Still Hungry** report at:

<https://blog.church-poverty.org.uk/2016/07/19/still-hungry-new-food-bank-research-sheds-light-on-who-faces-hunger-why-for-how-long/#more-2649>

and

<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/about/ourresearch/stillhungry/>

child poverty

<http://www.cpag.org.uk/scotland/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

Major research on food poverty by JPIT

Since 2006, the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) has combined the expertise of the **Baptist Union, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church** in the area of public issues. In March 2015, the **Church of Scotland** joined JPIT for a one year pilot partnership. The Team aims to enable our four Churches to work together in living out the gospel of Christ in the Church and in wider society. We aim to promote equality and justice by influencing those in power and by energising and supporting local congregations.

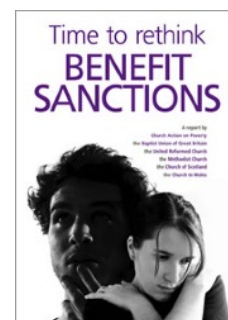
<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/resources/>

Enough (Report and Actions, Oktober 2015) asks that we keep the link between a family's needs and the support it is offered by the benefit system.

Rethink Sanctions - research

In 2014, one million benefit sanctions were imposed on people. The sanctions regime disproportionately affects young people, homeless people, young people leaving care, single parents, those with long term illness and mental health problems.

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/resources/rethinksanctions/>



A growing body of evidence in the UK consistently points to three drivers of Foodbank growth:

- severe inadequacies in social security provision,
- low waged and insecure employment and
- rising household expenditure, especially costs related to housing, utilities and food. ...

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/we-should-be-sceptical-of-claims-that-we-know-too-little-to-reduce-foodbank-use-guest-blog-by-cheshirehunger/>

Read the report of the **All-Party Parliamentary Group's Inquiry** into Food Poverty, April 2014  [feeding britain](https://feedingbritain.org.uk/)

<https://foodpovertyinquiry.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/food-poverty-feeding-britain-final.pdf>

emergency use only

In-depth 2014 research by Oxfam, Child Poverty Action Group, the Church of England and The Trussell Trust at

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/breadline/read/emergencyuseonly>

Faith in Foodbanks?

Posted on **2 May 2014** by **Joint Public Issues**

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/Faithinfoodbanks/>

Why is it that we are one of the wealthiest nations in the world, yet an increasing number of our population are reliant on foodbanks to sustain their families? How is it that some of our key producers of food struggle to maintain a basic livelihood while some food retailers and distributors announce enormous profits? Is it right that something which began as a way of providing an “occasional stop-gap in an emergency” is becoming more of an ongoing necessity for some? Are foodbanks, and churches, becoming unofficially part of the welfare state?

Truth and Lies about Poverty

Posted on **1 March 2013** by **Joint Public Issues**

In 1753 John Wesley said, “So wickedly, devilishly false is that common objection, ‘They are poor, only because they are idle’.”

Yet today church-goers and the general public alike are willing to

believe that the key factors driving poverty in the UK are the personal failings of the poor – especially ‘idleness’.

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Truth-And-Lies-Report-smaller.pdf>



The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty

This report from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church lays bare six myths about the poor which enable the majority to live with the comfortable assumption that both poverty and wealth are deserved.

Variety of different analyses of use of the Hope food bank, carried out monthly using SAS University Edition software:

<http://www.hopefoodbank.org.uk/usagestatistics/>

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out/our_other_work/social_issues/food_justice

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out/our_other_work/poverty_and_economics

worship resources

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/endlunger/pray>

The **global Churches'** Week of Action on Food.
(See the [World Council of Churches website](#) for
worship resources and
the '10 Commandments of Food'!)