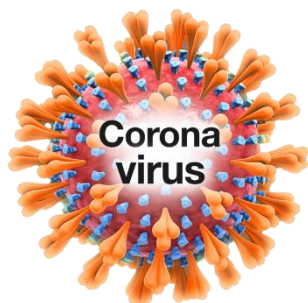
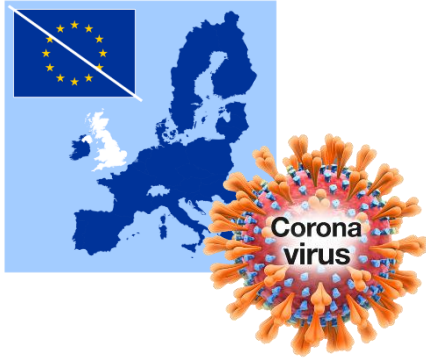


Coronavirus and inequality.





This document looks at how coronavirus and Brexit will make a difference to inequality in Scotland.

Brexit means the UK leaving the European Union.



Inequality means that people are not equal and do not have the same choices and chances.



Some people experience many different types of inequality.

Some inequalities can affect others or make them worse.



For example health inequalities like having bad physical and mental health are changed by economic inequalities – like not having enough money to buy good healthy food, or to take part in exercise classes.

What have we found out?



Coronavirus has changed our lives in a big way.

It has affected:

- people who have got the virus
- everyone because of the lockdown changes

Some people have been more affected than others.

It has caused a crisis.

A crisis is a difficult time when:

- something bad has happened
- people are under pressure
- or people do not know what is going to happen



Many people have been ill or died, and many people have lost their jobs.

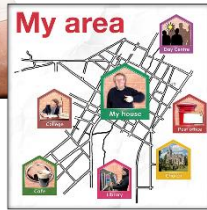


Some of the problems may last for a long time.



Before coronavirus there was already a lot of inequality.

Coronavirus has made some of the problems worse.



People in deprived areas have suffered more from the coronavirus crisis.

A deprived area is one where people have more difficulties in different parts of their life.



For example many of the people who live there do not have:

- enough money
- as many choices about things like education
- as many chances for a good job
- good resources – there might not be as many public services



Experts say that if the right things are not done, coronavirus will probably make inequality worse.

Experts are people who know a lot about a subject.



People are worried about health inequalities.

Some groups are more likely to be infected with the virus, to get sicker and are more likely to die.



People are worried that economic inequalities will get worse.

This means the difference between poor people and rich people may get bigger.



Some groups have been more affected by losing their jobs and not having enough money.



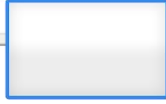
Many households are still recovering from the years of austerity since 2008.

The government spent less money by bringing in austerity.

Austerity meant there were less public services to help people and some benefits were cut.



There are worries about how coronavirus and the lockdown has affected what chances and choices people will have in the future.



Some groups may have less chances and choices in many different parts of their life like:

- getting a job
- getting an education
- being comfortable, healthy and happy

Although there have been many bad things about the coronavirus crisis it has also given people the chance to make some good changes.

More people have been able to work from home.

It means some parents are able to spend more time with their children.



Even though the country is coping with coronavirus, the UK is still preparing for Brexit at the end of the year.

Brexit has already been difficult for the UK economy.

Living standards for some people might be worse when Brexit is finalised and we are no longer part of the European Union – from January 2021.

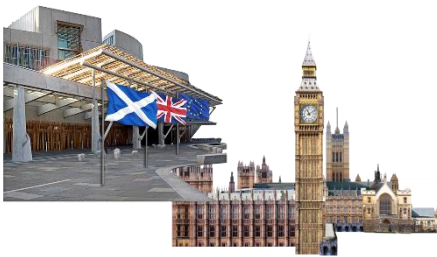




Coronavirus has made things difficult for lots of people.

Brexit is likely to make these things worse.

It may be very difficult for people on low incomes, older people and disabled people.



Changes must be made locally, and across Scotland and the UK.

These groups will be most affected by coronavirus and Brexit:

People who do not have as many choices and chances as other people.

This could be because they do not have much money or they live in a deprived area.

Health inequalities could get worse.



People who live in deprived areas are more likely to die from coronavirus than people who live in areas that have a lot of money and resources.



They are more likely to be ill and to have poor mental health – to not feel comfortable, safe or happy.

They are more likely to be unhappy with their life, and to feel lonely.



People are more likely to be ill in the future because they have had to wait for medical services and treatment.

People who live in deprived areas or who do not have as much money as other people often do a lot worse at all levels of education compared to people who have more money or who live in areas where there is a lot of money and resources.

This difference might get worse because of coronavirus.



People in deprived areas and people who do not have much money are less likely to use the internet.

This makes it harder for people to get education because they do not have the internet at home.

It also makes other parts of their life harder.

Economic inequalities could get worse.



Our economy is how the country produces and uses goods, services and money.

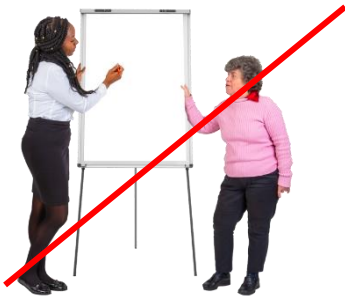
The government has done a lot to support jobs through the coronavirus crisis.



Coronavirus has put the country into recession.

This means people are not spending as much money and businesses are not making as much money.

Some people have not got enough money to live on.



There may also be less jobs for people who do not have a lot of skills, or jobs that have low pay, because of Brexit.



People who do not have much money find it harder to get training and pay for childcare.

This makes it harder for them to get a better job.



Coronavirus and Brexit could mean some people have lost their job and cannot pay their rent or mortgage.

Some people could lose their home.



If there is a no-trade-deal Brexit the price of some goods and services will go up.

This will make life harder for poorer households.



If people lose their job or are earning less money, they may not have enough money to keep their house warm.

Children and Young People.

There will probably be big changes in mental health, now and in the future.



Younger people have had the most problems with mental health because of coronavirus.

This could get worse because people have lost their jobs and missed out on education.



More people in poverty will probably mean that children and young people will find it harder to get jobs and earn money.

It has been harder for some children and young people to learn.



Home learning has been most difficult for children and young people from poorer backgrounds.

Missing school or college could affect the choices and chances of some young people in the future.

It could be harder for young people because of the damage to the economy.



Young people leaving education or training this summer are likely to find it more difficult to get a job.

Brexit may mean there are less jobs for young people.



Coronavirus has affected the amount of money some young people earn.

It has made it more difficult for them to afford housing and other essentials.



There may be more children living in poverty because:

- people have lost their jobs
- things are more expensive
- children's benefits and tax credits have stayed the same

Older people.



Older people have the biggest risk of dying from coronavirus.

Not being able to get to healthcare appointments will be most difficult for older as they are more likely to be in poor people health.



Brexit could mean there are problems getting medicines.

It could also mean there are not enough people to do jobs in health and social care.

This will affect older people the most.

It is harder for older people to keep in touch with friends and to go out to meet people.



Older people are more likely to be shielding or social distancing so they are not meeting up with people.

They are less likely to use the internet.

These things mean they are at more risk of being isolated.

Disabled people.



Disabled people have had problems with health and social care support in lockdown.

Brexit will probably make it harder to get people to work in the NHS and social care jobs.

This could make life harder for disabled people.

Disabled people are more likely to feel lonely.



Disabled people were more likely to be lonely and isolated before the coronavirus pandemic.

Many disabled people are more worried about becoming isolated now.

The attainment gap may get wider.



The attainment gap is the gap between people in education who live in poorer areas and people in education who live in richer areas.



Schools being closed has been harder for families with a disabled child.

The attainment gap could get wider for disabled children and young people.

It could be harder for disabled people to get jobs.



Many disabled people have jobs in workplaces that have shut down because of coronavirus – for example jobs in hotels and restaurants.

It will be harder for them to find new jobs when the economy is not working well.

May find it harder when European protections are lost.



Disabled people are more likely to be living in poverty – not having enough money for basic things like food, clothing and housing.



They may be more affected by changes to benefits across European countries after Brexit.

Minority ethnic people.

Ethnicity is the word we use to describe our background. People from an ethnic group might have the same language, culture or religion.

It will be harder for minority ethnic people to keep and get a job and poverty might get worse.



Some minority ethnic people are having more problems with money because of the coronavirus crisis.

They are more likely to work in some of the businesses that have had to close – things such as restaurants and hotels.

They are less likely to have savings – money in the bank.

If prices go up this will be difficult for people who are seeking asylum.



An asylum seeker is a person who has fled their home country because of war or other things harming them or their family.

They move to another country for protection.



It will also make life hard for people with a no recourse to public funds visa requirement.

A visa requirement is a rule for someone who comes from another country and wants to live in the UK.

A bigger risk of minority ethnic people being very ill or dying from coronavirus.



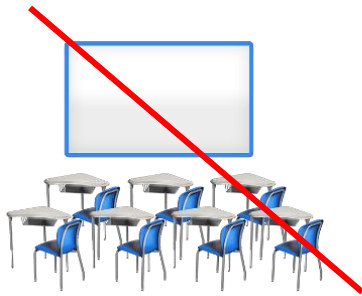
Coronavirus has been around twice as likely to have played a part in the deaths of people in the South Asian ethnic group than in deaths of white people.

More hate crime against minority ethnic people.



There have been more reports of hate crime in the UK against people who are Chinese, South Asian or East Asian ethnicities since the start of the coronavirus crisis.

It is harder for certain groups of people to get a good education.



Schools being closed may have been more difficult for people who are Gypsies or Travellers.

This could make it harder for them to get a good education.

Women

Mental health problems are getting worse for women.



Women have more problems with their mental health because of coronavirus.

Women in the UK are more lonely than men.

Women are suffering more domestic and sexual abuse.



Women are more likely to experience domestic abuse.

There may have been more domestic abuse during the coronavirus crisis.



Some women are starting or going back to sex work because they do not have enough money.

Sometimes women are forced to do this work by people who are making money from it.



The lockdown measures and businesses being shut down could affect women more in the next few years.

Women are more likely to work in some of the areas of the economy that have closed because of lockdown.



They are more likely to:

- work part-time
- be in a job that might not last a long time
- earn less money than men
- be in a job where they are not paid if they are off sick



Women are also more likely to be carers.

This makes it harder to start or keep a job.

Schools and nurseries being closed has meant women have had to do more childcare and housework than men.



Brexit and any changes to employment protections for pregnant and part-time workers will make it harder for pregnant women and mothers to get or keep a job.



Coronavirus has made some things change in a good way.

For example many men are spending more time caring for their children.

It has got harder for lone parents.



Most lone parents are women.

Before coronavirus lone parents were more likely to owe money or to have money problems.

The economic effects of this crisis have made it harder for lone parents.

Men

Men are more likely than women to become very ill from coronavirus.



Men are more likely as women to have been in intensive care because of coronavirus.

They are more likely to die than women because of coronavirus.

Men are more likely to lose their job.



Men are more likely to have been furloughed from their job or been given less hours to work.

Furlough is temporary leave from a job. A worker is still paid some of their wages.



This means many men have earned less money.

Brexit will probably affect a lot of industries that mostly men work in like farming, fishing, delivering things and building work.



Lots of women have jobs in education and health & social care and these jobs have been kept.

However, women could find it harder in the future because many are in part-time and insecure work.



Coronavirus has meant some things have changed in a good way.

It has meant many men can spend more time caring for their children.

We need to look at this in an intersectional way.



Intersectionality is a way to understand how identities work together.

An identity is how you see yourself.

We all have different identities that make us who we are.



Different identities can come together to make things more or less difficult for people.

For example:

- women, disabled people and minority ethnic people are all more likely to be in jobs that do not pay well



- there are more older women than men
- minority ethnic people are younger than the white population on average



- most lone parents are women



Coronavirus could make some inequalities worse.

It is very important that when we make changes because of coronavirus, we look at all the types of inequality and how they affect each other.