

Comments on Gender Budgeting

Comments by organisations, groups and individuals listed alphabetically under each of the headings identified as the main issues raised in the responses to the consultation.

Disability Action - The section on gender budgeting should include a commitment to its introduction not just to have it "taken into account".

Down Lisburn Trust - stressed that the Beijing Platform for Action 1995 refers to the necessity of gender budgeting.

NICVA - consider that the fact that the proposals seek legitimacy by continuously citing these instruments (CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action) suggests confusion at best and misinterpretation of equality at worst. They ask if the strategy's own reference to these human rights instruments that uphold women's rights surely undermines its 'equal treatment' approach. They also ask how it can be a gender strategy when it acknowledges that the key action areas reflect the major international instrument to promote women's rights. The Council concludes that the discussion on gender budgeting highlights the fundamental flaw in these proposals. NICVA would therefore recommend that the gender equality unit withdraws this flawed document and focuses on an action plan that implements the government's commitments under CEDAW and the Beijing Platform of Action with an additional focus on the inequalities suffered by the most marginalized women and the need to work for more equality of life chances. This is recommended as NICVA consider that the present strategy's lack of outcomes, targets, timeframe and resources undermines the commitments under Beijing and CEDAW.

Northern Ireland Women's Coalition - Within the section dealing with budgeting for gender equality, the general effect of this approach would be to backtrack on gender, so as to deal with it in equal terms to all other section 75 categories.

Save the Children - Save the Children supports the idea of gender budgeting but we would also want to see budgets further broken down by age in order to make visible the investment in boys and girls.

Women's Resource and Development Agency and the Rural Women's Networks - The Government needs to commit to the introduction of Gender Budgeting and set out precisely how it intends to ensure that resources are distributed equally. Gender Matters does not contain such a commitment.

There must be sustained and committed funding to the area of Gender Equality in order for all Departments to make real their national and international commitments and obligations.