

Older People's Day

Tackling Intergenerational Unfairness

Millions of younger people struggle day-to-day in the UK with high housing costs, low quality jobs and unemployment and deep cuts to local services and benefits systems.

It is often claimed that older people are prospering at the expense of the young, yet the UK has the highest rates of 'severe' pensioner poverty in Western Europe.

The House of Lords' Select Committee report entitled '*Tackling Intergenerational Fairness*' proposed:

- From 2026-28, when the state pension age (SPA) becomes 67, free bus passes and Winter Fuel Payments should only be available five years after a person becomes eligible for their SP and that the government should also consider treating them as part of taxable income.
- Phasing out the TV licence based on age then decide on a means based subsidy, like Pension Credit.



NPC campaigners gather outside the Dpt. for Digital, Culture Media & Sport before rallying outside parliament in the campaign to save the over-75s TV licence concession.

- Removing the triple lock for the State Pension (SP) and uprating it with average earnings.

The Centre for Social Justice also recommended a major overhaul of SPA - with it raised in less than 10 years to 70-years-old by 2028 and then again to 75-years-old by 2035, which the NPC fundamentally opposes.



The NPC will continue to campaign for the rights of tomorrow's pensioners and believe rather than benefiting younger people now – these recommendations effectively remove their right to receive such benefits when they eventually retire. The debate that should be taking place is about intra-generational unfairness and the increasing inequalities across all age groups that are so prevalent in our society.

Some of our current campaigns and policies include:

- A state pension set above the official poverty level based on 70% of the Living Wage (outside London). In 2018, this would give a state pension of around £200 a week. This should rise every year by the higher of wages, inflation (CPI/RPI) or 2.5%.
- Maintenance of existing universal pensioner benefits such as the winter fuel allowance, TV licences and concessionary bus pass without the need for means-testing.
- A National Care Service funded in the same way as the NHS, through general taxation, free at the point of use, publicly owned, publicly delivered and publicly accountable.
- We believe it is now time for a Commissioner for Older People, independent from government, who can champion and safeguard the rights of older people and who has the legal powers and responsibilities to enact positive change.

The National Pensioners Convention is Britain's biggest campaigning organisation for older people, with over 1m members across the UK.

"The campaigning voice of today's and tomorrow's pensioners"

For more information about the National Pensioners Convention visit: www.npcuk.org, email info@npcuk.org or call 0207-837-6622



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