



SINGLE PARENT RIGHTS

EQUALITY FOR SINGLE PARENTS

November 2020

How did it begin?



- Rapid policy changes in lockdown highlighted the 2.9 million single parents in the UK were a forgotten group
- Alongside other campaign groups and single parents, Ruth Talbot, founder of the campaign, directly lobbied 10 Downing Street and helped to secure support bubbles for single parents
- The Single Parent Rights' campaign was launched in June, 2020 and featured in The Guardian

The campaign ask



Single parents to be added as a tenth characteristic to the Equality Act, 2010

Why is change needed?



Single parents face discrimination daily:

- ❑ The workplace
- ❑ Accessing private rental properties
- ❑ Government benefits including: child benefit calculations, childcare vouchers, universal credit childcare payments and inheritance tax calculations
- ❑ Support and adaptations for a disabled child
- ❑ Entrance fees at tourist attractions, holidays and membership fees
- ❑ Lockdown policies

The impact of discrimination



- Almost 70% of single parents are employed yet a third of children in working single parent homes live in poverty
- Almost 30% of single parents report mental health concerns (double that of coupled parents)
- Intersectionality makes things worse for certain groups e.g. black single parents and those with disabilities

What will change?



- Data will be collected on single parents
 - ➡ knowledge and understanding of needs and challenges
- Single parents will be considered as a unique group with specific needs
 - ➡ needs considered prior to policy development
- Discrimination will be illegal
 - ➡ discrimination will decrease and a legal solution will exist

The benefits



- Greater single parent employment for those applying for roles
- Better working conditions, professional support and career development for those in employment
- Reduced reliance on benefits
- Greater disposable income for single parents to spend in society
- More stable and decent housing for single parent families
- Better mental health for single parents
- Lower poverty levels for children of single parents
- Better outcomes for the children of single parents

The team: 10 single parents



equality for single parents



14 campaign supporters



equality for single parents



amicable



happity



Save the
Children



Single Parents on Holiday



Campaign activities



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Petition

23:26

change.org/p/boris-joh

change.org

What's new Petition details Comments U

ENSHRINE SINGLE PARENT RIGHTS IN LAW - UPDATE THE EQUALITY ACT TO INCLUDE SINGLE PARENTS

Incorporate single parents as a protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010

1,423 have signed. Let's get to 1,500!

Take the next step!

Survey

23:26

forms.office.com/Page

Single parent discrimination survey

This survey is being conducted by the campaign for Single Parent Rights. The purpose of this survey is to collect data on discrimination faced by single parents to inform our campaign activities. It should take around ten minutes to complete. For more information on the campaign, please visit www.elementalminds.com/single-parent-rights

Anyone over the age of 19 and based in the UK can complete this survey, whether you are a single parent or not

For more information, or questions about this survey you can email the campaign on singleparentrights@gmail.com

Required

1. Your data will be used to better understand levels of discrimination towards single parents in the UK and shared with MPs and the media to raise awareness. Any personal details will be anonymised unless you give consent otherwise. The data you provide will be stored confidentially in accordance with GDPR and no identifying information will be

Media

23:29

google.com/amp/s/ine

ineews.co.uk

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Opinion

'We'll stop when our rights are enshrined in law': the single parents campaigning in lockdown

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated inequality for single parents

By Ella Davis
August 25, 2020 4:42 pm

Facebook Twitter WhatsApp

Letters to MPs

18:27

"Dear [insert name],

I am a member of your constituency and I am writing to you as [insert something personal here e.g. a single parent/ a single parent ally/ an adult raised by a single parent] about the discrimination that single parents regularly face in the workplace, benefits systems and from independent businesses.

This discrimination is allowed to happen because UK anti-discrimination law doesn't consider unfair treatment of single parents as discrimination, meaning single parents can legally be treated as second class citizens.

Single parents are calling on the government to change this so that single parents are afforded the rights and respect they deserve as equal members of society.

I would like you to request the government add single parents as the tenth protected characteristic to the Equality Law 2010. Only once single parents are a recognised group in law, protected from unfair treatment, will single parents be treated equally by all.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter and learning how the government h

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How YOU can help

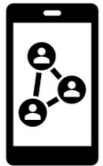


- Sign the petition: <http://chnng.it/FhdrG6bVp2>
- Complete the survey: <https://tinyurl.com/SingleParentDiscrimination>
- Write to your MP: template at <http://www.ellamentalmama.com/single-parent-rights/>
- Share the key actions and encourage others to get involved
- Use your connections to spread the word
- Sign your organisation up to the campaign

Find out more



singleparentrights@gmail.com



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www.ellamentalmama.com/single-parent-rights