

Cross-Party Group on Wellbeing Economy

Wednesday, 7th of December, 6:30-8:00 pm

Meeting will be held in Parliament in Committee Room 4, with an option to join remotely via Microsoft Teams.

1 Welcome

Welcome from Paul McLennan MSP

2 Introduction to Gender Budgeting

Sara Cowan, Coordinator of the Scottish Women's Budget Group, will present on the principles and ideas behind a gender budgeting approach and how it can help address structural gender inequality in our economy.

Sara joined Scottish Women's Budget Group in September 2020 as the organisation entered a new period of development in its 20year history. The Scottish Women's Budget Group brings together a wide range of women from across Scotland who have an interest in women's equality and want to achieve better gender equality in our society. Sara has spent her career working on social justice issues, with 13 years spent in various campaigning roles at Oxfam working on inequality, climate change and humanitarian issues. Prior to that Sara worked in Glasgow as an individual advocate for people with physical and mental health difficulties.

3 Introduction to Wellbeing Budgeting

Margreet Frieling, Knowledge Co-Lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance, will present on the emerging practice of Wellbeing Budgeting and how it can help to redesign our economy, drawing on examples in New Zealand, Canada and Bhutan.

Margreet is a policy analyst experienced in the use of wellbeing frameworks and evidence to inform and design better public policy. She has extensive experience working across the public sector internationally, including for the OECD, the New Zealand Government, and the Dutch Ministry of Health, Wellbeing and Sport, as well as working with local councils to support a wellbeing policy approach.

4 Discussion

The presentations will be followed by a chance to ask questions to the speakers and a discussion on how budgeting can contribute to tackle deep-seated gender inequality in Scotland, how it can contribute to building a Wellbeing Economy and what the next practical steps are.