EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
DRAFT BUDGET SCRUTINY  2020-21
SUBMISSION FROM MARIE WILSON

I am responding to this consultation as an individual residing in Scotland and not as a member of any organisation.

My main concern is that despite the disadvantages faced by women in Scotland there appears to be a total lack of funding to women only groups, with any funding of groups dealing with women’s problems dependent on their being inclusive of transwomen most of whom will be legally male, thus prohibiting any use of the single sex exemptions allowed under the Equality Act.

This appears to result in front line services being delivered by these organisations without any equality impact assessments being done to identify and ensure that the competing rights of women as a sex class and transwomen as males going through gender reassignment are not in conflict.

Surely it is not too much to ask that all groups funded by the government should have to show that they have consulted fully with the people they claim to represent and that these views should be taken into account.

I am also concerned by the lack of oversight by the government across all the protected characteristics in the Equality Act. This resulted in schools being issued with guidelines from a publicly funded advocacy group that not only breached girls’ human rights but also contained erroneous information on the Equality Act.

Any publicly funded organisation providing services to the public should be subject to the same Public Sector Equality Duties as any public body and funding should be contingent on that.