

# Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

6th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Tuesday 1 March 2022

## Virtual Roundtable

### Women's Unfair Responsibility for Unpaid Care and Domestic Work

#### Note by the clerk

#### Introduction

1. The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee agreed to hold a number of roundtable meetings about subjects within its remit.
2. Today's virtual roundtable session will be on **Women's unfair responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work** as a result of the pandemic, and as it applies to ethnicity. The Committee will hear from stakeholders representing women from minority ethnic communities.
3. On [7 December 2021](#) the Committee held an introductory session on this issue with groups representing women's rights. A further session was held on [14 December 2021](#).
4. The Committee agreed to undertake work in this area following evidence it received as part of its pre-budget scrutiny. Members heard that the burden placed on women in relation to unpaid caring duties for elderly parents and children and an increase in domestic work during lockdown, and as the country emerges from the pandemic, is likely to have a long-term negative impact on their future rights and economic prospects.
5. The session will focus on the impacts of the pandemic, and the restrictions brought about by it, on minority ethnic women, particularly in relation to unpaid caring and domestic responsibilities, but also in areas such as financial security, social isolation and mental health and wellbeing. The session will also explore what support has been made available and what further measures are required as the country emerges from the pandemic.

#### Participants

6. The following people will be taking part in the virtual roundtable—

- **Farah Farzana**, Race Equality Mainstreaming Officer, CEMVO Scotland
- **Mariam Ahmed**, Chief Executive Officer, AMINA - Muslim Women's Resource Centre
- **Trishna Singh OBE**, Director, Sikh Sanjog
- **Joy Lewis**, Chief Executive Officer, AAI – EmployAbility
- **Sara Medel Jiménez**, Member, NASUWT Equality Advisory Group

## Topics

7. The session will be a chance to discuss topics including:

- The increased demands placed on minority ethnic women as a result of the pandemic;
- How the pandemic has affected minority ethnic women's ability to maintain work and the demands of unpaid caring and domestic responsibilities;
- What impact the pandemic has had on the financial security of minority ethnic women;
- To what extent the pandemic has impacted those minority ethnic women with caring responsibilities;
- What impact there has been on minority ethnic women in accessing employment and training;
- Whether there has been an impact on the physical and mental health and well being of women in this group;
- Whether increased rates of domestic abuse and violence against women specifically impacted women in this group and what support is in place to address this;
- What measures have been put in place to support women in this group through the pandemic and what would be key to providing further support as the country recovers.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**24 February 2022**