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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

CSJ research for Channel 4 Dispatches exposes vast inequality across Britain

CSJ research underpins Fraser Nelson documentary for Channel 4 Dispatches episode 'How the rich get richer'. The most comprehensive poverty database ever created revealed:

- The poorest people in Britain live 18 years fewer than the richest – the difference between being born in Turkmenistan or Sweden
- Children in the most deprived communities are three-times more likely to fail to get 5 good GCSEs than the rich
- Levels of worklessness amongst households with children are eight-times higher in the poorest neighbourhoods
- Around two in five households with children in the poorest areas have no father present
- Rates of violent crime are 12-times higher in Britain's most deprived communities than the richest

Poverty and inequality have become so entrenched in Britain that the poorest have life expectancies similar to some of the poorest countries in the world. Barriers – such as worklessness, family breakdown and addiction – that keep people trapped in poverty mean the vast gulf between the rich and poor is in danger of growing wider.

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) was commissioned by *Dispatches* to build the most comprehensive poverty database ever assembled in the UK to analyse the difference between Britain's poorest and richest communities. It revealed shocking disparities:

- High levels of family breakdown are endemic for the poorest million people – households with children are more than three-times more likely to be without a father than the richest. (see below)
- These households are also eight-times more likely to have no adult in work.
- Previous CSJ research has shown that family stability has a significant impact on a child's education achievement. This correlation was clearly reflected in the new research, as pupils in Britain's poorest communities were three-times more likely not to achieve 5 good GCSEs than the richest. Rates of violent crime are also twelve-times higher in Britain's poorest neighbourhoods.

Christian Guy, Director of the CSJ said: "Some of Britain's poorest communities are under enormous strain from dangerously high levels of worklessness, family breakdown, educational failure and addiction. Tackling these root causes of poverty must be an urgent national priority."

	Poorest Million People	Richest Million People
Male life expectancy	69.6	88.1
Fatherless households	38%	11%
Children in homes where no adult is in employment	35%	4%
Adults on out-of-work benefits	32%	3%
Households in social housing	56%	3%

Ends

Notes to editor

The CSJ compiled data on more than 40,000 statistical areas across Great Britain, including information gathered from the ONS, Home Office, Department of Education and Department for Work and Pensions.

In order to obtain statistics for the 'poorest million people' the CSJ analysed the data for areas when ranked by the government's official Indices of Multiple Deprivation. As there are different rankings for England, Scotland and Wales the data was weighted according to the relative populations of these countries. In order to calculate statistics regarding life expectancy, the statistical areas were ranked by male life expectancy, rather than by the indices of deprivation.

Not all of the data presented in *How the rich get richer* was prepared by the CSJ, nor did the CSJ have editorial control over the script or filming process.

For more details visit the CSJ's [website](#)

This research builds on and helps quantify the findings and recommendations of the CSJ's recent [Breakthrough Britain 2015](#) series of reports – which are outlining a host of policy solutions to tackle the root causes of poverty and deprivation. Reports were published this year on how to reverse worklessness, family breakdown, educational failure, addiction, serious person debt, and also on the future of the voluntary sector

This series of research publications follows the original *Breakthrough Britain* exercise in 2007, which set out 190 policy recommendations, singled out by Prime Minister David Cameron as “a major influence on his Government”.