

The Centre for Social Justice
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The logo for The Centre for Social Justice, featuring the text "THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE" in white, uppercase letters on a dark red background.

28.09.14

For immediate release

STATEMENT FROM THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

‘Earn or learn’ principles can drive down youth unemployment, says CSJ

Centre for Social Justice responds to Conservative welfare announcement on 28.09.14

Christian Guy, Director of the Centre for Social Justice, said:

“Although youth unemployment is coming down, there is no room for complacency. That is why it is encouraging to see new measures announced today.

“For too long this country had an unambitious welfare system that left young people behind – the path from school to job centre was too easy.

“This new youth offer, similar to the one outlined by the Centre for Social Justice earlier this year, could equip young people with the skills to get on in life and prevent future worklessness.

“With the right exemptions and protections the tightening of the cap and housing benefit would be reasonable ways to raise investment for more practical support for those out of work.

“No longer should we be content to assume some young people are destined for the dole. By ensuring that everyone does something – the ‘earn or learn principle’ – the chances of the next generation ending up out of work are much reduced.”

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) is an independent think tank established in 2004 to put social justice at the heart of British politics. In June last year, the CSJ was awarded UK Social Policy Think Tank of the Year 2013 at Prospect magazine’s Think Tank Awards.

In 2007 the CSJ published its landmark report, Breakthrough Britain. This publication, which set out 190 evidence-based policy recommendations to tackle poverty in Britain, transformed the social policy and political landscape and was awarded Publication of the Year by Prospect Magazine in 2008.

Since Breakthrough Britain the CSJ has published over 40 reports which have shaped government policy and influenced opposition parties. This has included the seminal paper Dynamic Benefits, which led the Coalition Government's welfare reforms.

Further to this, the CSJ manages an Alliance of around 350 of the most effective grass roots, poverty-fighting organisations. The CSJ is able to draw upon the expertise and experience of Alliance charities for research work and media inquiries. Journalists wishing to conduct grass-roots research into social problems can be put in touch with front-line charity directors and staff.