



The Centre for Social Justice
9 Westminster Palace Gardens
Artillery Row
London
SW1P 1RL
Website: www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THINK TANK WELCOMES RECOMMENDATIONS TO TACKLE BRITAIN'S
DRINK FUELLED DISORDER**

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) welcomes today's recommendations from the Home Affairs Select Committee to ban pub happy hours and supermarkets from loss leading promotions.

The CSJ has been calling for this since its findings in its *Breakthrough Britain* report (July '07) which looked at the escalating problem of addiction in the UK. The report found not only a direct link between consumption and the pricing of alcohol but also a link between the overall level of alcohol consumption and the level of alcohol-related harm. The report encouraged all political parties to consider affecting the price of alcohol including the possibility of a treatment tax.

For far too long governments have done little to control the supply or availability of alcohol at enormous cost to society. With rising levels of drink fuelled crime and the increasing cost to the public purse (drug and alcohol abuse costs society around £39 billion per year) the CSJ welcomes a tightening up of the main drivers of consumption: the regulation and taxation of alcohol.

“With alcohol consumption having doubled in the last 50 years and by 15% in the last five years alone it is high time politicians from all parties faced up to this problem which causes such devastation in Britain’s most vulnerable communities,” says The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, Chairman of the Centre for Social Justice.

- To view the *Breakthrough Britain: Addictions* report in full, please visit:
<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/addictions.pdf>
- Please find attached the Executive Summary of *Breakthrough Britain: Addictions*.

Ends

To arrange a meeting with Iain Duncan Smith or for further information on the Centre for Social Justice call Nick Wood of Media Intelligence Partners on 07889 617 003 or 0203 008 8146 or Alistair Thompson of MIP on 07970 162225 or 0203 008 8145.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank which was established by the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP in 2004. The Centre seeks effective solutions to the poverty in Britain.

Breakthrough Britain:

In July 2007 the group published *Breakthrough Britain. Ending the Costs of Social Breakdown*.

Breakthrough Britain identified five pathways to poverty: family breakdown; addiction, economic dependency and worklessness, educational failure and debt. It also identifies a role for the voluntary sector in their remedy.

Breakthrough Britain presented over 190 policy proposals to reduce the £102bn cost of social breakdown which were submitted to David Cameron on 9 July 2007.

All reports are available on: www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

