

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS ...  
... AND A REFORMING NEW YEAR

THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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SOCIAL  
JUSTICE

[www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)

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DEAR COALITION GOVERNMENT,  
OUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOU IS A SELECTION  
OF COST-FREE (S) IDEAS TO TACKLE POVERTY  
AND DELIVER SOCIAL RECOVERY.  
HERE ARE OUR ...

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POLICIES OF CHRISTMAS

From The Centre for Social Justice

1

**Broaden your measurement of poverty beyond income inequality,** to include important factors such as family breakdown, poor education, worklessness, drug and alcohol abuse, and damaging personal debt

2

**Enable profit-making organisations to run Free Schools in the poorest areas.** This would help bring to scale the number of transformational schools required to fight educational underachievement and boost social mobility

3

**Help prevent family breakdown** by requiring Registrars to point engaged couples towards local marriage preparation and relationship education courses

4

**Stop providing future Winter Fuel Payments to better off households.** Use the money saved to create an investment fund for local projects that support socially isolated pensioners

6

**Pressurise prime contractors in the Work Programme to make better use of the most effective charities in delivery.** Without action, this essential back-to-work initiative could be undermined

5

**Tackle educational exclusion by working with head teachers to get tough on the disengaged parents of pupils with challenging behaviour.** Where relevant, cut their benefits to force compliance

7

**Stop prisons from releasing offenders on Fridays.** It fuels re-offending because many essential services, including those for offenders with addiction problems, are closed during weekends

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**Children don't exist in isolation, they are part of families – so ask local authorities to collect relationship status data to assess the impact of their Child Poverty strategies on families.** This should include a distinct category for marriage, to demonstrate its stability

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**The Talk to Frank drugs awareness programme is feeble and should be replaced urgently.** Introduce an effective prevention initiative that tells children and young people not to abuse drugs and alcohol

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**Work to develop a mentoring culture within business to deliver growth.** Established companies should advise start-ups and experienced workers should mentor new entry-level employees

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**Allow relaxation of the National Curriculum on a temporary basis for any pupil struggling with basic literacy and numeracy,** in order for them to catch up

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**Use pro-bono offers from the private and voluntary sectors to start delivering effective financial education for young people,** in school and non-school settings