

WASPI – Women Against State Pension Inequality

Background

In 1995, the then Conservative Government legislated to increase the women's State Pension age from 60 to 65 by April 2020. Yet in the years following, these changes were not communicated to affected women. Many only received notice of a change after the State Pension age was raised again to 66 by the Pensions Act 2011.

Over 3.6 million 1950s-born women were victims of what the Parliamentary Ombudsman has branded "maladministration".

Some found out about the postponement to their State Pension as late as 2012, getting only one year's notice of a six-year delay to their retirement. WASPI women planned their lives under the misapprehension they would receive a State Pension at 60. Many gave up work for caring responsibilities, believing they could rely on savings until reaching State Pension age.

About the campaign

WASPI calls for an **immediate one-off compensation payment** in acknowledgement of the financial and emotional hardship caused by the failure of communication by the DWP. The campaign argues for the most substantial compensation to go to women who were given the shortest notice of the longest increase in their State Pension age.



YES – Fair and fast compensation for proven DWP maladministration



NO – Reversing the pension age to 60; or paying 'lost pensions'

Why a resolution is urgent

WASPI women are reaching the latter stages of their life and more than 225,000 have already died. Amid the cost-of-living crisis, economic strife and an energy crisis, 1/3 of WASPI women are in debt.

Additionally, women are more likely to experience poverty in later life than men, because of the inequalities they face throughout their lives.

The government is, yet again, failing older women by moving the goalposts without their knowledge, and then not remedying this injustice and leaving one in four women under the poverty line.

The Ombudsman's investigation

We ask WASPI members to challenge MPs for hiding behind the outcome of the Ombudsman's investigation. After an unprecedented out-of-court settlement in spring 2023, the Ombudsman is now re-examining their Stage 2 report into the full impact of State Pension changes on 1950s women, with their findings due within months.

Given the high likelihood the Ombudsman will recommend compensation for WASPI women, the main political parties should be getting ahead of the issue. WASPI continues to work hard, across party lines, to secure manifesto commitments for fair and fast compensation at the next general election.

WASPI is seeking compensation for WASPI women on a sliding scale of how badly they were affected, with the worst affected receiving in excess of £10,000.

Any compensation scheme needs to be simple and quick to implement so that women, who have already waited years for a resolution, can at last achieve redress without further delay.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

- Join as a member to support the WASPI Campaign
- Join a local group and get actively involved
- Write to your MP using the template letter on our website
- Tell your friends about the Campaign, join us on Facebook and Twitter
- Help spread the word

WASPI is happy to support you with any of the above actions. Please contact us for further information.

CONTACT US

If you would like any additional information, written briefings or other materials, please contact waspicomms@gmail.com.



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