

The Scottish Women's Convention

COST OF LIVING

SURVEY RESULTS 2022

Across Scotland there have been increased concerns surrounding rising costs in living and as such we carried out a survey to understand women in Scotland experiences. Respondents explained how increasing costs have contributed to anxiety and hardship for themselves, and others, with food and heating increases being of particular concern.

They felt that more could be done by the Scottish Government and workplaces to support women and families, by challenging ingrained pay inequalities experienced by women across sectors. Respondents also suggested that hardships caused by the rising costs in living are intersectional, with individuals from minority groups being worse off.

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S CONVENTION (SWC)

The SWC is funded to engage with women across Scotland to ensure that their views are represented in policy and decision-making processes. The SWC uses the views of women to respond to a variety of parliamentary, governmental, and organisational consultation papers at Scottish, UK and international levels.

The SWC gathers information using different methods, including roadshows, thematic conferences, surveys, and both in-person and online roundtable events. Working together with many other equalities organisations and community groups, we use our broad network to ensure that women from a range of backgrounds are heard and acknowledged. We are continually reviewing innovative ways of engaging with women and developing our trauma-informed and culturally sensitive practice to support vital contributions from as many women as possible.



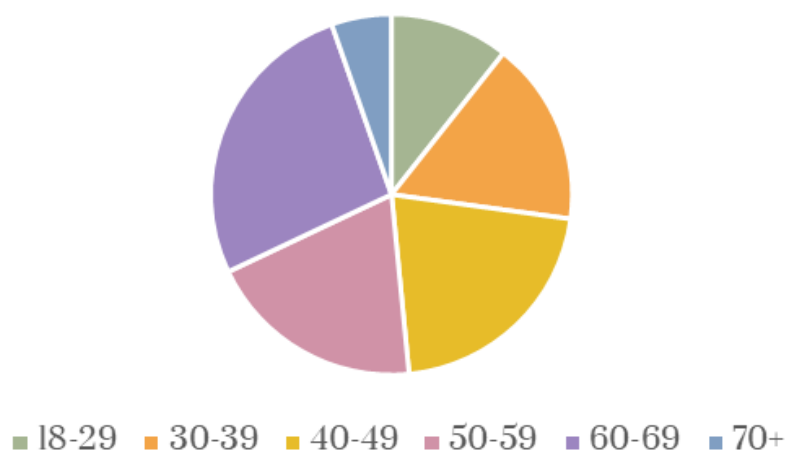
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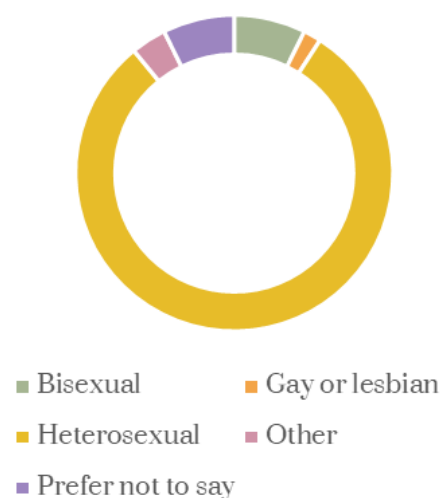
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DEMOGRAPHICS

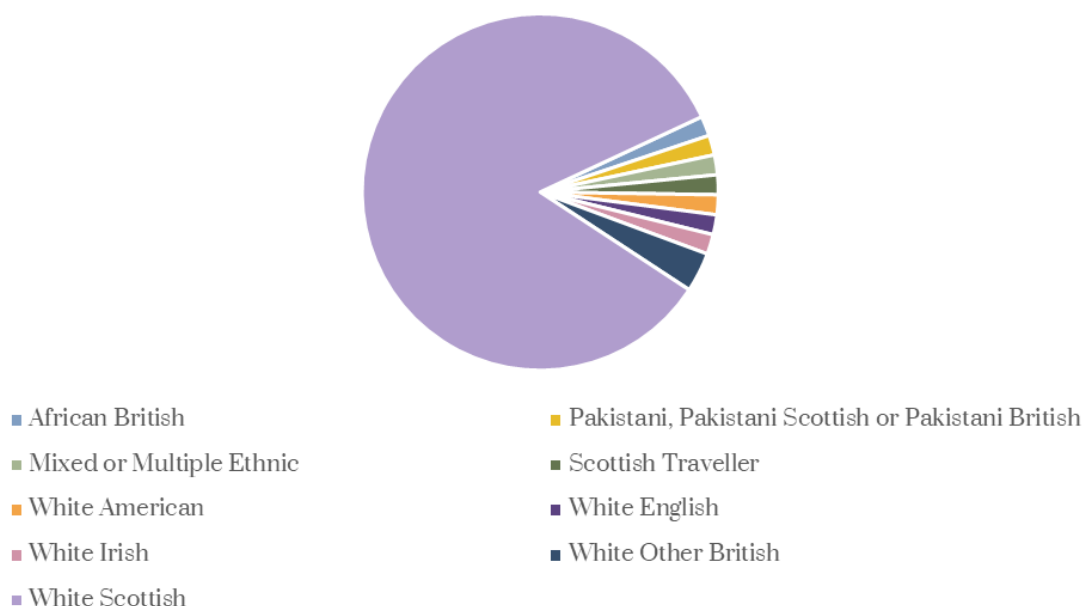
Age



Sexual Orientation



Ethnicity



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CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY WOMEN...

92%
REGARDED THE
CURRENT COST OF
LIVING SITUATION
AS A CRISIS.

“ I work with families who count every penny. In the past few weeks, I have had more contact for help/support than ever before. ”

32.1%
OF WOMEN TOLD US
THEY WERE HIGHLY
CONCERNED ABOUT
THE RISING COSTS
OF LIVING.

“ I’m very worried about how much my bills are going to go up by and I’m not able to prepare for it since my salary isn’t able to increase. ”

“ A normal food shop has doubled in price since last year. Gas and electric prices have more than doubled! People are choosing between food and heating... some parents are going to go hungry so their kids can eat. ”

“ There has to be recognition that women are bearing the brunt of this, mothers in particular. ”

“ People will have to choose between food and heat/electricity. The impact of this will be catastrophic... these are not luxuries, they are necessities. ”

“ My biggest concern is for other women, girls and vulnerable people, including anyone who is vulnerable due to age and/or disability... people have struggled so much for two years and now there is no end in sight. ”

WE ASKED WOMEN IN WHAT AREAS THEY ARE SEEING A RISE...

92.9% - GROCERIES AND FOOD COSTS

96.4% - HOUSEHOLD HEATING/ELECTRICITY COSTS

76.8% - PETROL/DIESEL COSTS

19.6% - PUBLIC TRANSPORT COSTS

16.1% - RENT

30.4%
OF WOMEN FELT THAT THE
RISING COST OF LIVING
HAD MAJORLY IMPACTED
THEIR LIVES THIS YEAR,
WITH 0% FEELING NO
IMPACT.

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WOMEN'S SOLUTIONS...

“They could offer to help people getting to foodbanks, not all women drive or have the money for public transport.”

“They need to work on closing the gender pay gap, women are most likely to be the caretakers for family members/children so ensure that there is reasonable support for them.”

“Employers should be offering flexible working hours that actually fit with childcare costs, and to allow access to higher paid employment.”

“Have, where possible, community hubs providing children's meals for after school and holidays.”

“Free school meals for all children. It's great we have this for younger children but it's my older children that need more food to sustain their education, without it we are setting them up to a life of less opportunities. If they are hungry, they can't learn which means less chance to get out of the poverty trap we're in.”

Thank you!

Thank you to all of the women who provided their invaluable insight into the rising cost of living through our survey. We are forever grateful for the sustained engagement women give to our organisation, and we will continue to utilise the information given to inform Scottish policy-making practice.

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