

The Scottish Women's Convention

The Realities of Scottish Social Care for Women 2026

Social care plays a vital role in supporting individuals, families and communities yet women often face unique and disproportionate challenges, both as recipients and providers, when trying to access and secure social care.

The following infographic analyses the results of a survey conducted by The Scottish Women's Convention (SWC) following our recent conference 'The Realities of Scottish Social Care for Women'. The purpose of the survey was to better understand the experiences of social care in Scotland and how current systems and services impact women's lives. By examining the responses, our findings identify several areas of concern, highlighting areas where greater awareness, investment or support may be needed.

Thank you to those who shared their experiences and views, with the following document outlining key themes.

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.

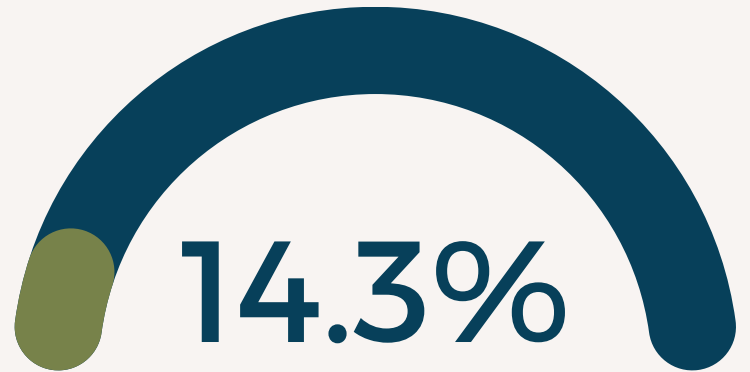
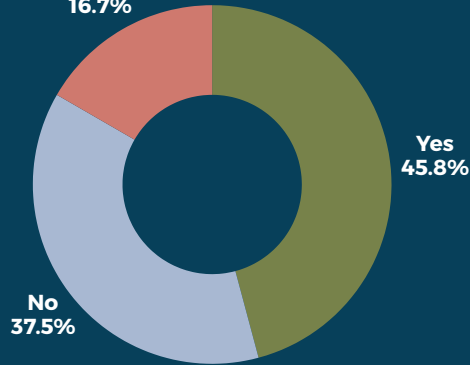
The SWC gathers information using different methods, including roadshows, thematic conferences, surveys, and both in-person and online roundtable events. Working together with many other equalities organisations and community groups, we use our broad network to ensure that women from a range of backgrounds 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.



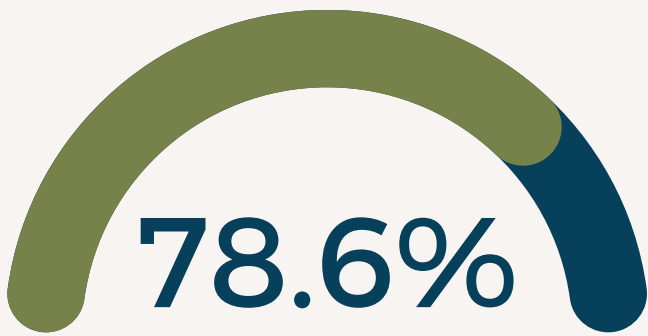
Survey Results

Have you ever had to reduce your paid work or education because of caring responsibilities?

Prefer not to say
16.7%



of respondents felt that women's unpaid care work is recognised and valued.



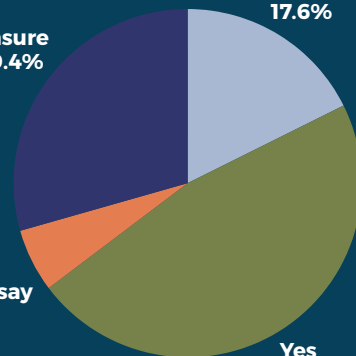
of respondents would support a National Care Service for Scotland if it aimed to improve equality and accessibility for women.

Did you feel treated with dignity and respect by care providers?

No
17.6%

Unsure
29.4%

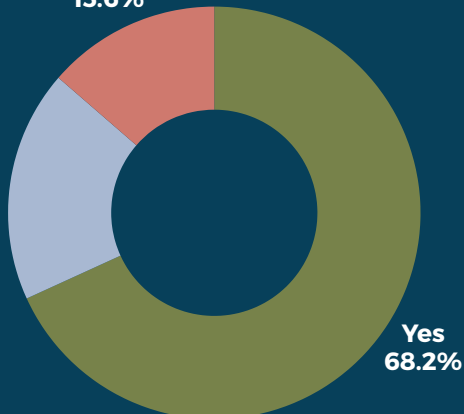
Prefer not to say
5.9%



Yes
47.1%

Prefer not to say
13.6%

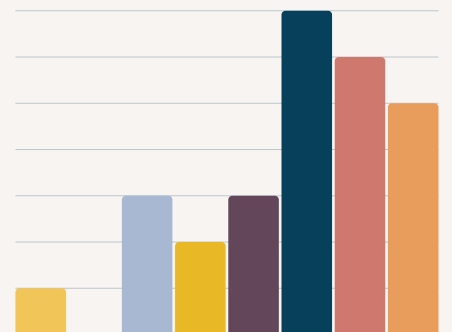
No
18.2%



Has receiving or providing social care affected your mental health or wellbeing?

AGE

16-17 18-24 25-35 36-45
46-55 56-65 66-75 76+



Women's Experiences

The carers were friendly and helpful.

It's always different people every time.

On support from paid carers...

Lack of training or capacity of staff meaning they weren't equipped to meet my dad's needs.

Not listened to.

Specific barriers faced by women

Older women on low incomes are facing many barriers to accessing care. The raising of the state pension age has led to an attitude among government and organisations, as well as in society, that women over 60 just have to get on with it and cope with poor health and increased caring responsibilities... many of the older generation feel marginalised and invisible and find it hard to ask for help, particularly if they have experience of being treated dismissively by nhs or local authority staff.

Proposals for how Scotland's Social Care system can better support women...

Carer allowances for pensioners.

Recognition of women's unpaid labour in caring for the young, elderly and vulnerable and more support for women carers, financially and emotionally.

Give real practical & financial support to women who are unpaid carers for family (of all ages). Demonstrate that they are truly valued in society.

More support and understanding for women taking care of elderly relatives.

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the women who provided their invaluable insight into their experiences. 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.

SWC Contact Details

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