

Spring Newsletter



Let's thank younger generations

We want to thank the young for all they have sacrificed over the past year to protect the health of the old. Even though their schooling, education, jobs, home life, even their mental health, have all been affected by a virus which physically affects their generations the least, younger generations have consistently supported older generations throughout. They have stocked shops, filled shelves, served on tills, created support groups, bought food, volunteered in hospitals and food banks and abided by lockdowns. At no period outside of wartime has the intergenerational contract been so strong from young to old. Now it is time to support the young.

**Please Donate to Help IF Support Younger
and Future Generations**

What IF? Podcast



A podcast for younger generations by younger generations, the What IF? podcast series is now available on Spotify, Apple, Google and many more platforms. The current episode asks why young people are missing from politics. Previous episodes cover mental health, housing, student finance and treatment, and unemployment, during COVID-19. You can catch up on past episodes [here](#). Have an idea for a future episode? Get in touch.

Age bias



We were delighted that outgoing Children's Commissioner, Anne Longfield, agreed to provide the foreword to our [Age Bias](#) report on government spending by age. The report, recently covered by [The Observer](#), demonstrates the intergenerational unfairness in government policy. There are now 4.3 million children (31%) living in poverty in the UK, at a time when pensioner poverty has halved to around 16%, yet the government spends £20,800 on each pensioner and only

£14,700 on each child – a £6,000 difference. The report explains that the gap in spending has doubled in just under 20 years and concludes that government policy has not kept up with the changing face of poverty in our society.

Click here to read more of our research reports

Public affairs

The IF team has continued its work responding to government consultations and APPGs. Areas included: the APPG for Future Generations' inquiry into long-termism in policymaking; the Health and Social Care Select Committee inquiry on mental health reform; and the Department of Health and Social Care's Reforming the Mental Health Act inquiry. IF also signed a joint letter to the Chancellor calling for fairer taxation and Melissa Bui provided oral evidence on IF's [Costing Young Minds](#) report to the APPG for a Fit and Healthy Childhood. IF's submissions can be found by following [this link](#).

CGT - still work to do

The Chancellor chose not to reform Capital Gains taxation in the March budget but IF will continue to call for intergenerationally fair taxation. IF research has estimated that the government could raise £50 billion a year through taxes on unearned income and wealth, comfortably enough to allow it to repay all student debt and allow young people to enjoy a free university education, which could be one way to thank the younger generations for all they have sacrificed during the pandemic. Charging national insurance contributions on rental income for landlords and shareholder dividends could raise some £24bn a year, while reducing capital gains exemptions could raise a similar amount on top. £50 billion is equivalent to 33% of annual government spending on the NHS. Cancelling outstanding student debt would entail a one-off cost of £138bn and ongoing annual cost of about £17bn, easily affordable from the new taxes.

IF/FRFG work

The latest issue of the [Intergenerational Justice Review](#) is out. It is co-produced by IF and our sister organisation in Germany, the Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations (FRFG), and looks at Intergenerational wealth transfers through inheritance and gifts.



Donate to help IF

Like many charities, IF has suffered a drop in income due to the pandemic, but IF's work is even more essential now than ever to ensure that younger and future generations are not left to pick up the £400 billion bill from the pandemic alone. Please consider helping to protect younger and future generations today, or why not leave a legacy to help generations to come? You can [donate here](#).

Covid generation hit hardest

The economic effects of the pandemic have not been borne equally across the generations. Intergenerational inequalities, which were present before the pandemic, have widened over the past year. While older generations have been largely financially insulated - thanks in large part to regular incomes from pensions or investments - younger generations have lost their education, their jobs, their homes and even their mental health, with far fewer savings to fall back on. Of all jobs lost, the majority have been among the under-25s; 1 in 6 children now have an identifiable mental disorder; and a tsunami of housing evictions is expected when the current ban ends in May.

IF is committed to standing up for younger and future generations. We hope the research findings outlined in this newsletter encourage policymakers to more fairly allocate spending across the generations, with a post-COVID settlement that thanks the young for all they have lost to protect the old. Join us in our call for a fairer intergenerational settlement.

Stockpiling space



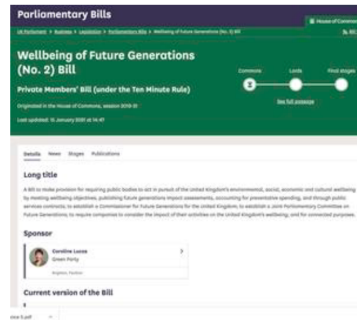
Our latest housing report, with a foreword by Kate Barker, finds that wealthier older generations have been on a spending spree, buying more expensive homes with more space during the pandemic. Featured by the Sunday Times, the report found that 52% of owners now under-occupy their homes. The pandemic has exposed two housing nations. Those living in the first nation – well-housed, often well-off and with space to self-isolate have found the experience bearable. Those living in the second housing nation – in cramped flats with no access to outside space, or in shared houses – have suffered the most. Read the report [here](#).

Grey Power



Structural barriers to why young people are missing in politics are investigated in IF's [Grey Power report](#). Not only are our national representative bodies – the House of Commons and the House of Lords – ageing, but ageing is also happening on a local level with the average age of a local councillor now 59 years. While good progress has been made on gender and ethnicity, virtually no progress has been made on age in the UK. Other countries are investigated for their political representation by age and the UK is found to be well behind many of its European neighbours.

Future Generations Bill



IF continues to support the [Future Generations Bill](#), which requires public bodies to: meet key wellbeing objectives, publish future generations impact assessments, account for preventative spending, appoint a Commissioner for Future Generations in England (following the Welsh example), establish a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Future Generations, as well as oblige companies to consider the impact of their activities on the UK's wellbeing. We need your support more than ever. You can write to your local MP [here](#) and ask them to support the Bill.

Staff changes

After almost 10 years working with IF, David Kingman, Senior Researcher, has left to join HM Treasury. We cannot thank David enough for his long service and dedication to the IF mission and wish him all the very best in his new role. Lizzie Simpson joined as a researcher in January 2020. Lizzie has a background in housing and public policy and works closely with Melissa Bui, IF's Senior Researcher.

Media case studies

The media are always interested in interviewing young people struggling with living costs, high housing costs and student debt, as well as their concerned parents and grandparents. Please email liz@if.org.uk if you would be happy to be interviewed.

We are on Twitter [@inter_gen](#), Facebook, Instagram and Linked-In.

Join the conversation and help us bring about a fairer future for younger and future generations.