



**HOW CUTS IMPACT ON**

# BENEFITS

**SAFETY NET**  
**WELFARE**  
**PENSIONS**  
**POVERTY**  
**PROVISION**  
*Cradle OAPs*  
**SURE START**  
**SUPPORT**

**VULNERABLE**  
**CHILDREN**  
**CAREERS**

**ALLOWANCE**

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[www.ictupeoplejobsandservices.org](http://www.ictupeoplejobsandservices.org)

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# WELFARE REFORM

## RADICAL AND DANGEROUS CHANGES WILL AFFECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

The Government is planning a full scale attack on hard-won social security benefits. They plan to **force** people with caring responsibilities to take up “work for your benefit” schemes, with **sanctions** imposed where an individual does not comply.

### **BUT...**

There are currently **57,000** unemployed people on Jobseekers Allowance with another **44,000** classed as “economically inactive” who will take a job.

**THAT MEANS THAT MORE THAN 110,000 PEOPLE  
ACROSS NORTHERN IRELAND ARE LOOKING FOR JOBS!**

Where are these “work for your benefit” jobs?  
Is this a **scheme** or a **scam**?

This could allow **unscrupulous employers** to use this scheme for cheap labour, **subsidised by the taxpayer**, instead of paying someone the proper rate for the job.

This could also lead to a cut in the **minimum wage** and increase poverty for those already living in financial hardship.

Income Support claimants and their partners may be **obliged** to undertake work-related activity as a condition of receiving a benefit.

People could be **forced** to attend work experience – even if they are **not fit** to do so.

Single parents with **young children** will be forced to undertake work-related activity despite the absence of good quality **affordable childcare**.

This is all at a time when unemployment is **higher** than when the Agreement was signed in **1998!**

Where are these job claimants being forced into?

Income Support will be abolished leading to hardship for carers and parents who depend on this benefit while looking after children or vulnerable family members.

Employment and Support Allowance claimants may be expected to undertake work-related activity when they may not be **able** or **ready** to.

And that's not all:

- ▶▶ A cap will be placed on Housing Benefit.
- ▶▶ A freeze on Child Benefit and cuts to Tax Credits will further increase child poverty in Northern Ireland.
- ▶▶ Pensions and benefits will be calculated using the lowest measurement of inflation – meaning that benefits will not keep track of real prices.
- ▶▶ Increases in VAT will hit the poor hardest.
- ▶▶ Sure Start Maternity Grants to be restricted.
- ▶▶ The Coalition Government is raising the pension age to 66 – for now.

People will have to **work longer** – even those who have spent their lives doing **hard manual labour** on building sites or farms. These people understood that if they **paid their taxes** and made their National Insurance contributions, they would be **decently treated** in their old age. This is a cruel **betrayal**.

▶▶ **These measures represent an unjustified attack on low and middle income earners and their families. They will seriously damage the living standards of the thousands of citizens who already struggle to make ends meet.**

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

Join us in our campaign against these vicious cuts in public services and make sure you do your utmost to protect your family and community.

You can help by:

- ▶▶ Endorsing the trade union alternative to programme of cuts.
- ▶▶ Write to your MP, MLA and local councillor asking them to endorse the trade union alternative to the cuts.
- ▶▶ Encourage your friends, family and neighbours to do the same.
- ▶▶ Support the trade union public demonstrations against the cuts.
- ▶▶ Support your local communities' struggles to protect local services.



**Wednesday**  
**SEPT 29**

Rallies at City Hall, Belfast and  
Guildhall, L'Derry - 12.30pm

**Saturday**  
**OCT 23**

1pm march & 2pm rally at  
City Hall, Belfast

**PEOPLE•JOBS•SERVICES**  
**CAMPAIGN**   

**LATEST INFO GO TO:** [www.ictupeoplejobsandservices.org](http://www.ictupeoplejobsandservices.org)

NIC-ICTU Tel: 028 90247940