

Origins

Consequences

Solutions taken, envisaged and needed

With 30% of children in poverty, will the UK's elections change anything? | DW News

The report highlights the severe issue of **child poverty** in the UK, where nearly 1 million children live in poverty, exacerbated by **rising inflation**. As national elections approach, campaigners urge the next government to prioritize the cost of living crisis.

In Greenwich, one of the poorest communities in England, residents express their struggles with **high living costs, especially single parents juggling multiple jobs**. Charities report a **dramatic increase in food bank usage**, with emergency food parcels nearly doubling in the past five years. This crisis affects not only the impoverished but also the middle class.

Many **feel abandoned by politicians**, believing they are disconnected from the realities faced by everyday people. The upcoming election is seen as unlikely to bring significant change, with **major parties focusing on economic growth rather than direct assistance for those in poverty**.

The report also discusses the dissatisfaction with British politicians, particularly the Conservative Party, which has been in power for 14 years. Experts suggest a natural shift may occur, with the Labour Party expected to win due to widespread discontent. The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, is viewed as competent but lacks charisma.

Economist Stuart Lansley notes that **inequality has deep roots in British society, with the top 10% holding nearly half of the UK's wealth**. Despite the alarming statistics, issues of poverty and inequality are largely absent from political discourse, as solutions are complex and politically sensitive.

Lansley argues that addressing poverty requires a **comprehensive transformation of the economy, rather than minor adjustments in welfare**. The Labour Party's current stance does not suggest significant changes in policy to tackle inequality, leaving many questions about how they will address the growing divide.

In conclusion, the report paints a grim picture of poverty in the UK, with the upcoming elections seen as a potential turning point but failing to engage deeply with the pressing issues facing millions.

Can the government solve the UK's housing crisis?

The housing crisis in the UK is highlighted by **ongoing challenges in meeting demand**, with new approvals for homes in Crewe insufficient. Local counselors acknowledge that while **new housing is necessary**, there is a significant **lag time between legislative changes and**

their impact on the ground. Families like Nicola Richardson's are struggling to enter the housing market, as the costs of what is labeled as "affordable housing" remain out of reach for many, especially without substantial parental income.

The construction industry emphasizes the need for a skilled workforce to build the houses required. To meet government targets, there must be a significant increase in construction personnel, driven by confidence in the policy environment. However, opposition from local residents complicates the situation, as "not in my backyard" sentiments persist. Despite discussions about solutions, many still find owning a home unattainable.

The UK Cost of Living Crisis 2024: Inflation, Energy Costs & Wage Struggles Explained

The ongoing cost of living crisis in the UK has become a significant issue for millions, with inflation reported at 7.9% as of August 2024. While wages have increased by only 6.2%, they are not keeping pace with rising costs of essentials such as food, energy, and housing. The crisis has roots in events like Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, which have all contributed to soaring prices.

To combat inflation, the Bank of England has raised interest rates to 5.25%, making borrowing more expensive and adding financial pressure on households. Food banks have seen a record increase in demand, distributing over 3.1 million emergency food parcels from April 2023 to March 2024. Many households have had to cut back on heating, leading to initiatives like "warm banks" to provide spaces for people to stay warm.

Debt has surged, with 21 million people struggling with bills and an average household debt exceeding £15,000. This financial strain has affected mental health, prompting the government to introduce measures like the energy price guarantee to cap energy costs. However, critics argue these solutions are temporary fixes rather than addressing long-term energy affordability.

The government is also focusing on increasing affordable housing and raising the minimum wage to combat poverty. Plans for investing in renewable energy aim to reduce reliance on global markets, though these initiatives will take time to yield results. Economists warn of potential recession due to high inflation and stagnant wages.

The crisis serves as a lesson for other nations and underscores the need for economic resilience and proactive policies. Community support and individual actions can play vital roles in addressing the crisis. The road ahead is challenging, but with the right strategies, the UK has the potential to emerge from this crisis stronger and more resilient.